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FBIS-SOV-94-072 *14 April 1994*

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CIS Delegations Confer on Eve of Summit

LD1404084394 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0800 GMT 14 Apr 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The CIS Coordinating and Consultative Committee and the CIS Council of Foreign and Defense Ministers are holding meetings in Moscow today. Traditionally, such events are held on the eve of meetings of the CIS heads of state and government. In addition to general issues, the delegations arriving at the meeting intend to solve their own problems. For instance, the Moldavian [Moldovan] delegation plans to sign a number of agreements, except military ones. That country is very interested in setting up a free economic zone, re-exporting goods, and solving the issues of a payment union. Tajikistan plans to discuss additional measures to stabilize the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border. Kazakhstan's delegation is expected in Moscow today, but without President Nazarbayev, to all appearances. The agenda of the meeting includes a problem raised by Kyrgyzstan. It deals with ensuring the rights of those belonging to national, ethnic, language, and religious minorities. In addition, President Askar Akayev is to speak about the natural disasters in the republic. Russia has given the largest amount of aid to the areas hit by landslides.

Economic Union Summit Priority

LD1304211894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1752 GMT 13 Apr 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] According to Interfax sources, the forthcoming CIS summit will concentrate on the implementation of the economic union treaty. The discussion will begin with the draft agreement on Ukraine's membership in the economic union as an associated member.

The CIS leaders will also consider two cardinally important economic documents. The first one is the draft agreement on the inter-state economic committee—a permanent executive and coordinating body accountable to the Council of the Heads of State and to the Council of the Heads of Government.

The second one is the agreement on the creation of a free trade zone, providing for a gradual annulment of customs duties, taxes and non-tariff limitations. The free trade zone is viewed as a transition to a customs union which is to become the subject of a separate agreement.

The CIS leaders are also expected to discuss a new version of the provision on the Council of the CIS Defense Ministers, given changes in military-cooperation bodies. IF Note: The councils of the CIS defense and foreign ministers are to discuss matters pertaining to the Collective Security Council, and adopt a declaration on this body dealing with financial, personnel-related and functional question. The Collective Security Council was created in 1993 by the CIS heads of state and includes the countries which have signed the collective security agreement: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Moldova, Turkmenistan and Ukraine did not sign the collective security agreement.

A special accent will be put on the problems facing Tajikistan. The foreign and defense ministers are to propose additional measures to stabilize the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border.

The Council of the CIS border-troop commanders is to present a report on Russia's talks with the Central Asian and Transcaucasian states on cooperation in the protection of the borders with third countries.

The CIS leaders are to sign a memorandum on cooperation between Russia, Ukraine and Belarus in protecting these countries' borders. IF Note: the draft memorandum says that the protection of the borders with the countries which are not members of the CIS is these countries' common concern and is not aimed at any third countries. This measure is to help Russia, Ukraine and Belarus to regulate migration processes and combat terrorism, drug trafficking and other trans-border crimes.

Commander of the Russian border troops General Andrey Nikolayev told Interfax that support given to the Russian initiative was a welcome fact. He also announced that Ukraine had initialled this document and expressed hope that other CIS countries would join it. He noted, however, that the memorandum was an outline document and did not contain any specific measures or figures.

A comprehensive CIS agreement on border issues should be gradually drafted, he said, because on their own the CIS countries cannot cope with the problem of border protection.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 14 Apr

LD1404054694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0521 GMT 14 Apr 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow April 14 (ITAR-TASS)—Today's newspapers pay attention to the treaty on pooling the Russian and Belarusian monetary systems which was signed on Tuesday. The NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper writes in this connection that "Russia's national interests lie, apart from all else, in secure and quiet borders. [no end quotes as received]

The newspaper notes that under the present conditions when the border runs near Smolensk, a situation will be disquieting if Belarus is not our friend, let alone enemy.

"Any vacuum will be filled up at once. Russia should think about its own interests.

"Belarus will find a way to determine its bearings. It has people and structures oriented on Russia. It is with them that we shall cooperate. Opponents of reintegration do not sleep either. According to the logic of events, they shall make the next move."

In the opinion of the ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI newspaper, "we can say now with satisfaction that political wisdom of Russian and Belarusian leaders is taking the upper hand over considerations of secondary importance".

The TRUD newspaper stresses that "the signing on Tuesday of the treaty on pooling the Russian and Belarusian monetary systems is possibly one of the greatest sensations".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA features an article by member of the Russian academy of sciences Georgiy Arbatov on Soviet-American relations where he notes: "It would be wiser for the United States to appraise prospects for relations with Russia not from the viewpoint of who occupies what post in the Russian Government, of how great inflation or budget deficit is (although this can be important for taking a decision on credits).

"Other things are much more important for policymakers: What is happening to the Armed Forces, what policy Russia pursues towards the former Soviet republics, what happens to the development of democracy and freedom of speech in Russia, how open our policy is, what progress is achieved in fulfilling disarmament treaties signed with the United States, what prospects are for their ratification, etc.

"Sure, responsibility for the future of our relations rests on both sides."

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI carries an interview with Admiral Igor Kasatonov, first deputy commander-in-chief of the Russian Navy. Commenting on the events at the base of moth-balled ships of the Black Sea Fleet in the Odessa port (Ukraine), admiral stresses: "The fact that a Russian officer was handcuffed and beaten up (I have in mind Captain Feoktistov and his deputies) is a crude violation of human rights and rights of servicemen. "These acts run counter to all Russian-Ukrainian agreements. I'm surpised that Russian sailors had enough patience not to make a single shot. However, some people were clearly waiting for these shots."

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA features an interview with Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov who claims that "everything Anatoliy Chubays (eds: Chubays is responsible for the country-wide privatisation programme) is doing, leads the country to its collapse".

At the same time, he states that he "has sincere relations with President Yeltsin. And I would like to say the following thing: I'm loyal to the president. No undercurrents. In future too. I do not change sides".

The same newspaper runs an interview with former first deputy chairman of the Soviet KGB Viktor Glushko, describing his viewpoint on the abortive state coup in Russia in August 1991.

A sensational theft took place at the grand hotel Evropa in St. Petersburg, reports the SANKT-PETERBURGSKIE VEDOMOSTI newspaper. British national Luizidis Miltas fell victim of robbers.

They stole his attache case from his suit with 15,000 U.S. dollars, six million roubles, a credit card, his firm's seal and commercial contracts with Central Asian countries. The Briton assessed the value of documents at 17 million dollars.

In his opinion, the hotel security service did not take adequate measures to prevent the theft. The security service of the five- star hotel informed militia of the incident nearly three hours later, although the theft was reported at once.

No Date Fixed for Joining Partnership for Peace

LD1404115394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1124 GMT 14 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Nikolay Yeronin and Anatoliy Krasnov]

[Text] Moscow April 14 TASS—"We are getting the impression that our partners in the West, especially in NATO, have not found the correct solutions yet", announced Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev in response to journalists' questions about NATO's decision to bomb Serbian positions.

Kozyrev announced that Russia intends to sign the Partnership for Peace initiative, but has not yet determined the appropriate date. "We are interested in a much more serious approach, not in just discussing some framework document. We also have proposals worked out by the Russian Foreign and Defence Ministries, but we are interested in much more serious relations, which would rule out surprises and unilateral measures, especially military ones, in those areas where we should be cooperating most closely", the foreign minister said.

"It seems that my last conversations with the American secretary of state and the British foreign secretary, and especially today's talk with French Minister of Foreign Affairs Alain Juppe, allow us to hope that both sides will learn their lessons from the recent events", Kozyrev said. "And we really are thinking over a more serious and substantial format for relations with NATO".

The Russian foreign minister was speaking on Thursday at a briefing for foreign and Russian journalists on the results of talks with Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu, who is now in Moscow on an official visit.

Kozyrev Supports Yeltsin Position on Yugoslavia

LD1304135194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1256 GMT 13 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova, Nikita Yermakov, Yuriy Sizov, Vladimir Shekhovtsev]

[Text] Barcelona April 13 TASS—"Russian President Boris Yeltsin said everything about prospects for Russia's joining the Partnership for Peace programme at his press conference in Madrid yesterday," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told ITAR-TASS here today. "I cannot add anything to what he said," Kozyrev added.

On Tuesday, Boris Yeltsin said Russia is not yet linking the situation in Bosnia to membership in NATO's Partnership for Peace scheme. "But Russia is also in no hurry to sign that programme," the Russian president said on Tuesday.

Asked if he is planning a trip to the former Yugoslavia, Andrey Kozyrev replied "not in the next day or two".

Russia Rejects 'Junior Partner' Status

LD1304114694 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 0830 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Russia will never reconcile itself to the role of junior partner who is informed after the event about such important decisions as the use of armed forces in the Bosnia settlement, Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Department, stated today at a briefing. Naturally, we will draw the appropriate conclusions from what happened on 10 and 11 April near Gorazde, he stated.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Developments in Bosnia

LD1304124194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1129 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, 13 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—A representative from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs today released the following statement:

Moscow is following the development of events in the former Yugoslavia and around it with concern and responsibility. The NATO air strikes of 10 and 11 April have substantially aggravated the military and political situation. The Russian side repeatedly warned of this. The international community must now act urgently to save the situation. Russia's resolve to continue its initiatives in this direction has been confirmed by its president and foreign minister, the Russian president's special representative is working actively in the region.

We are worried that the statements made in support of the act of force in Gorazde, by many Western leaders, could lead to reliance on force in Bosnian and in world affairs in general. Reports have already appeared about discussions in NATO headquarters of new ultimatums to the Serbs, by-passing the United Nations. We do not accept this policy and would put in its place a policy of genuine partnership and cooperation—not just in words but in action, for the sake of stability and security.

So we insist on an unconditional observation of the procedures approved by the UN Security Council for bringing aircraft into action in Bosnia, which stipulate consultations with the UN Secretary General and members of the Security Council.

We still expect exhaustive reports from the UN Secretariat General about what happened in the Gorazde region. The appropriate instructions have been given to our representative at the United Nations.

According to information confirmed by the UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] leadership, the events in Gorazde began with provocative activities on the part of Muslim armed formations, which met with an incommensurate response from the Bosnian Serbs. The Muslim provocations are continuing even now. The UNPROFOR headquarters in Sarajevo confirms that on 11 April the Muslims attacked the Serb-held village of

Lapsiza north of Pale, and on 12 April they mortared Serb positions around Gorazde.

Bellicose pronouncements by the Bosnian Serbs about their intention to shoot down all aircraft overflying their positions are also a cause for concern.

We again appeal to all parties to refrain from any provocative activities, as the UN Security Council has demanded at Russia's initiative. At the same time all countries committed to a settlement of the crisis and the world community as a whole must get the Bosnian parties to behave in precisely this way and to return to the negotiating table in order to achieve a durable and comprehensive cease-fire. Opportunities for this do still exist.

For its part Russia is doing its utmost to promote the earliest possible settlement.

NATO Air Strikes 'Unjustified'

LD1304184794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1734 GMT 13 Apr 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: Reports by diplomatic correspondents Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy and others]

[Text] In the opinion of Russia the NATO air strikes against the positions of Bosnian Serbs in Gorazde were unjustified. The statement was made on Wednesday in an exclusive interview with Interfax by Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov who is the senior official at the ministry now that Andrey Kozyrev is in Spain accompanying President Yeltsin.

Lavrov said that in the military sense the NATO air strikes did not give anything, and in the political sense they sharply worsened the situation. Besides, it should be found out whether the NATO action caused human losses.

Lavrov spoke of the unproductiveness of regarding Russia as an inferior partner of NATO. "This was proved by the situation in Sarajevo and now though somewhat differently by Gorazde", he said.

According to the deputy minister, the situation must be saved after the NATO air attacks. This can be done only through concerted efforts, he said.

Lavrov stressed that last Monday the UN Security Council held a session called for by Russia to discuss the situation. "The first report of the Security Council secretariat about the developments in Gorazde was submitted. It was clearly fragmentary and incomplete. We were not satisfied with it and we expect exhaustive information", the diplomat said.

According to him, the Security Council met again on Tuesday. "At the initiative of Russia it adopted a call to Bosnian Muslims to stop the shelling. Russia again demanded information from the secretariat about the way the procedure required by Security Council resolutions was applied and what concrete targets were attacked", Lavrov said. Besides, Russia suggested that the Security Council take steps to implement the April 6 declaration concerning a safe zone in Gorazde which implies the demilitarization of the area, the sending of a UN force, the withdrawal of Serbian artillery and the disarmament of Muslim armed groups.

He recalled that last June the Security Council passed a number of resolutions permitting the use of force in ex-Yugoslavia to prevent attacks on peace-keepers and the UN personnel and violations of the no-flight zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina. In such cases the UN secretary general can request interested countries and regional organizations to support the UN force and resist the violations. The procedure of using force proposed by the secretary general in his report on July 14, 1993 was approved. Lavrov stressed that under the resolution the secretary general can made a decision on the use of force after consulting Security Council members. The report was discussed by the Security Council and approved in the first clause of resolution No. 844.

According to Lavrov, the procedure providing for compulsory consultations with Security Council members was the main condition of Russia's approval of the resolution. "The resolution must be observed. This equally applies to countries that are targets of tough sanctions and Security Council members, the secretary general, the secretariat. We are bringing the idea home to our partners in the Security Council and the secretary general", the diplomat said.

The deputy minister said that a high-ranking official from the Russian mission in Geneva Valeriy Loshchinin met there with Butrus- Ghali and "told him everything". "We did not get exhaustive answers to our concerns", he said.

Asked whether Russia is going to submit the draft of a more binding Security Council resolution Lavrov said that the whole gamut of sentiments at the council should be taken into account. Many Security Council members, in particular non-aligned countries, view the Serbs as the only aggressors and constantly call for one-sided actions against them. Lately only Russia with the feeble support of two or three countries has been resisting resolutions that would declare a Security Council ultimatum to Serbs throughout Bosnia, lift the Security Council embargo on arms supplies to the Muslims and expel Serbs from all international organizations.

According to Lavrov, Russia is not turning a blind eye on the fact that before the air attacks the Serbs violated Security Council resolutions. "According to some reports, 30 people were killed and 100 wounded in the Serbian shelling. This must be double-checked. We demand that the Serbs stop such actions. But they should not be attacked alone. It is clear that the current situation around Gorazde was provoked by the Muslims while the Serbs reacted inadequately. If the world community

chooses one side as the scapegoat, this will lead to what President Yeltsin has described as an eternal war", Lavrov said.

Asked whether Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev would go to ex- Yugoslavia—a fact not ruled out by President Yeltsin in his speech in Madrid—Lavrov said that Moscow would want to get detailed reports from the Russian presidential envoy in the conflict zone Vitaliy Churkin first. "Churkin is engaged in virtually round-the-clock negotiations with the conflicting sides and the United Nations. Unfortunately, it is not always possible to be in touch with him as he constantly moves from one place to another", the diplomat said.

Moscow is alarmed by the fact that the support of many Western leaders for the use of force in Gorazde might lead to reliance on force in Bosnian and international affairs in general. The feeling is expressed in a statement of a Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman circulated in Moscow on Wednesday.

He said the NATO headquarters is reportedly discussing new ultimatums to the Serbs in circumvention of the United Nations. "This road is unacceptable for us, instead we pursue a policy of true partnership and practical cooperation for the sake of stability and security", the Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

No NATO Plans on Bosnia 'Behind Moscow's Back'

LD1304170294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1639 GMT 13 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Mineyev]

[Text] Brussels April 13 (TASS)—A NATO official said on Wednesday that the North Atlantic Alliance is not making any plans for Bosnia behind Moscow's back.

He told ITAR-TASS that NATO leaders held a meeting today and expressed satisfaction with the results of air raids on Sunday [10 April] and Monday which were carried out in accordance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 836.

He said NATO leaders did not discuss Moscow's reaction to air raids or prospects for Russia's accession to the Partnership for Peace programme. They reiterated NATO's readiness to provide aviation support if U.N. forces come under attack in Bosnia again.

The official did not rule out the possibility that the date of signing the Partnership for Peace agreement by Russia set for April 21 may be changed because there has been no official confirmation from Russia yet. He expressed that hope that it will happen as soon as possible.

The official noted that NATO acted as an executor of the U.N. will and all complaints and protests should be directed to the United Nations which bears all responsibility for the action. He confirmed NATO's intention to act in close contact with Russia in order to restore peace in the former Yugoslavia, adding that the Partnership for Peace programme could provide a good foundation for such cooperation.

Air Force Chief Says Bosnia Situation 'Aggravated'

LD1304193494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1744 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] The commander-in-chief of Russia's Air Force said NATO's air strikes in the Gorazde area had aggravated the situation in Bosnia.

General Petr Deinekin told Interfax on Wednesday that Russian military experts had predicted that air attacks in Bosnia would produce no positive results, the warring sides there not being properly separated.

He cited data according to which the U.S. aircraft, F-16's in the first raid and F/A-18's in the second, had used 300-kg bombs with laser homing heads, able to hit human targets at a distance of up to 30 meters.

Citing information obtained by the Russian Air Force high command, Deinekin said that on April 10 the American planes were planning to raid armored units, but, seeing none, bombed an artillery command post instead. He said the second strike, made on April 11, was a failure since only one of the three dropped bombs exploded.

Commenting on the Bosnian Serb command's statement that NATO aircraft making new raids would be downed, the general said the Serb forces positioned in the Gorazde area had no air defenses or fighter planes. He said the Americans had used an AWACS control system during the raids.

Chernomyrdin Links Lifting Sanctions With Bosnian Peace

LD1304125094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1222 GMT 13 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow April 13 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said that economic sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro would not be lifted until peace is not ensured in Bosnia. [sentence as received]

"Lifting of economic sanctions against Yugoslavia should be preceeded by a ceasefire from all the conflicting sides (in Bosnia)," he told TASS on Wednesday.

"Russia stood and stands on one position—all settlement problems in Bosnia can be solved only at the negotiating table. Nothing can be done by military force," he said and added that Russia does not accept "power methods."

The prime minister stressed that in general Russia stands for the lifting of sanctions againt Yugoslavia. "I do not

understand why peoples have to suffer, and not those forces which profit from the conflict."

However, he added that for the time being it is impossible to lift the sanctions completely. "Foreign economic relations will be impeded by combat activities," according to the prime minister.

The situation in former Yugoslavia will most evidently be discussed at the CIS summit in Moscow on Friday. "The example of former Yugoslavia makes us see what a split of the country can result in. The example shows what we can get on the territory of the former USSR," Chernomyrdin stressed.

Says Conflict Cannot Be Resolved by Force

LD1304215094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1744 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Russia's position has always been and will continue to be the following: the armed conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina can be resolved "not by force, but only at the political negotiation table," Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said after talks with the Tajik government delegation on Wednesday.

The premier believes that an unlimited amount of time can be spent finding out who of the opposing sides "is to blame or not to blame" in the escalation of the conflict in the Balkans," and whether attacks of American planes on positions of the Bosnian Serbs in the region of Gorazde have been coordinated or not. But it is absolutely clear that in the world "there are forces who need all this and whose ambitions are the reason why this all happens."

Chernomyrdin noted that Russia's position remains the same: "an immediate end of bloodshed without the use of force." Otherwise, he thinks, sanctions against Yugoslavia "will not be lifted," although "the people who are reaping all these fruits of political intrigues have nothing to do with this."

The premier is convinced that the sanctions imposed by the UN will not be lifted "not because Russia wants or does not want this," but because the countries neighboring to Yugoslavia "will not let cargoes of any of the warring sides through their territories in order not to fan the Balkan fire, and they will be right to do so."

Russia's Choice, LDPR Denounce Air Strikes in Bosnia

LD1304190694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1745 GMT 13 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Rudolf Gladkikh]

[Text] Moscow April 13 TASS—The Russia's Choice bloc issued a statement on Wednesday, following NATO air raids on Bosnian Serb positions near the town of Gorazde.

"The process of peaceful settlement on the long-suffering land of Bosnia-Herzegovina is going through another period of hardships. Bloody events in the U.N.-proclaimed 'safe area of Gorazde' cause deep sorrow and concern. It is necessary to act decisively in order to put an end to deaths and sufferings of innocent people, to violence, terror and any provocations, no matter who inspires them," the statement said.

It stressed that the "safety of Gorazde is provided for by respective resolutions of the U.N. Security Council and they must be unswervingly fulfilled." The statement described as alarming the fact that the decision on bombing "was adopted without proper consultations corresponding to the seriousness of the moment with the leadership of the Russian Federation."

"Russia as a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council cannot stay away from such responsible decisions and should not associate itself with coercive actions for which it did not give its consent," the document said.

In a separate statement the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) denounced the air strikes in much stronger terms. "NATO bombs kill orthodox brethren and sisters," it said. The party also lashed out at U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, saying he has "forgotten the goals of his organisation and its charter." "Especially outrageous is that air raids are called a 'U.N. Peace-keeping operation,'" the statement said.

Opposition: Air Strikes Show Disrespect for Russia

LD1304195294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1744 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] The air strikes on Serbian positions demonstrated how little American diplomacy respects Russia. The statement was made at a Wednesday news conference in Moscow by the leader of the opposition Russian National Assembly Aleksandr Sterligov.

"The USA has actually begun building a new world order through the use of force and we regard this as a dangerous step that might pave the way to a war against the Slavic world", Sterligov said.

According to him, in this situation the Serbs will not be left alone, because steps would be made to organize the sending of volunteers to Serbia. He added that if the war in Serbia was not stopped, it would spread to Russia.

Sterligov spoke against the coming joint Russian-American military exercises in the Urals this summer. He said the purpose of the exercises is to encourage separatists to split Russia as well as to spy on the capability of the remnants of the Russian army to guarantee the security of the country.

"Americans want to consolidate their hold on our territory, set up bases and begin the creeping occupation of Russia", Sterligov said.

He stressed that the Russian National Assembly is ready to form public committees of resistance to the appearance of Western troops in Russia. "In this respect we have found full understanding with Cossack organizations and groups of Afghan war veterans", Sterligov announced.

He said his organization together with Cossacks and Afghan veteranss would launch a campaign of resistance to the exercises, if the Federal Assembly does not cancel them.

Churkin: Serbs Will Not Challenge World Opinion

LD1304214794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2032 GMT 13 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kondrashov]

[Text] Belgrade, 14 Apr—The stabilization of the situation around Gorazde is perhaps the most important thing that was achieved during the two days of talks in Sarajevo, Vitaliy Churkin, special representative of the Russian president, said in an interview to the ITAR-TASS correspondent after his return to Belgrade.

There have been no intensive combat actions in the Gorazde region for over 24 hours now, he continued. True, the Muslims did make two attempts to provoke the Serbian side into opening fire but the UN forces' observers cut short these attempts.

I now have assurances from Radovan Karadzic that the Serbian forces do not intend to make any further attacks or to open fire on Gorazde, of course, on condition that the Muslim side does not provoke them.

After my talks in Pale and Sarajevo I have come away with the conviction that the Serbian side does not intend to throw down a challenge to the international community. Its stance makes it possible to move the negotiating process forward, although resolute steps are needed on its part to move forward toward peace in Bosnia, and, consequently, toward the removal of the sanctions against Yugoslavia, that is how the Russian deputy foreign minister assessed the results of his meetings in Sarajevo with the leadership of the Bosnian sides, the command of the UN forces, Charles Redman, the special representative of the U.S. President, David Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg, the cochairmen of the Geneva peace conference, and also his latest conversation with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

I handed over to Milosevic and Karadzic our proposals that would facilitate the establishment of peace in Bosnia and progress on the question of sanctions; we will be awaiting their reply to them.

V. Churkin refuted reports that representatives of the UN forces were arrested and detained by the Bosnian Serbs. It is just a matter of restricting their movements, which was a reaction to the air strikes by the NATO air forces, he said. Indeed, only vehicles of the Russian battalion of "blue helmets" are freely allowed through the Serbian part of Sarajevo.

This reaction was also expressed in the refusal by the Serbian side to hold talks with the command of the UN forces. I, however, told the people I was talking to that to ignore the United Nations was not in their interests. But I have no grounds to insist that they change their stance after everything that has happened.

The Russian diplomat said that he will remain in Belgrade for now.

Churkin Discusses Ideas for Balkans Settlement

PM1304134194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Apr 94 p 3

[Interview with Vitaliy Churkin, special envoy of the Russian president, by Sergey Sidorov, under "Russia's Interests" rubric; date and place not given: "Vitaliy Churkin: We Need a Stable Europe"]

[Text] [Sidorov] Russia has viewed its interests in the Balkans differently at different times. For example, in the days of the Ottoman empire it advocated the protection of the Christian peoples, who needed support in their national liberation struggle. Later, during World War I, the Russian emperor accomplished a special Christian exploit by standing up for fraternal Serbia—in many ways a suicidal step. In World War II Yugoslavia was our ally. But in the cold war era our interests were better served by a neutral Yugoslavia, which made it easier to organize strategic defense in the southwest sector. As the Russian president's special envoy who deals directly with the questions of Yugoslavia, how would you express Russia's present-day interest in the Balkans?

[Churkin] In the first place it seems to me that Russia, as a great European power, has an interest in a stable Europe. But there cannot be a stable, peaceful Europe without stability in the Balkans. That is axiomatic and it stems from the historical experience which you spoke about. In addition, the war in former Yugoslavia is crippling the whole region because economic and cultural ties are breaking down and normal political cooperation has stopped. The fact is that because of the traditional ties that we have with the Serbs and with other peoples of this region, Russia can play a role in a settlement. Furthermore, the world has finally come to realize recently that without Russia there can be no settlement in the Balkans at all. Here, it seems to me, we have traveled a complex path in the development of our diplomatic line: Moscow has moved from what was to some extent an anti-Serb position to a more complex maneuver in which it began to use its channels of communication with the Serbs so as to encourage their constructive approaches to a political settlement....

We also have economic interests and opportunities. We now have quite good economic ties with Croatia. Just

look at how many different firms from the former Yugoslavia there are in Moscow. Croatian, Bosnian, and Serbian firms—despite all the sanctions-related difficulties those firms are still in Russia. So I think that our interest is manifold—political, economic, and psychological.

[Sidorov] Henry Kissinger, the former U.S. secretary of state, was once asked the secret of his diplomatic skill. He said it was that he always told the truth. This sounds paradoxical—diplomats usually employ a lot of flowery language for just one purpose—to hide what they are really thinking. Tell us the truth, how does the West understand the thesis that the settlement in the Balkans is impossible without Russia, and how do you understand it?

[Churkin] You have asked quite a complex question. It is hard for me to say how the West views this. I proceed from the premise that the Americans, for example, have stated to us authoritatively at the very highest level that they do not see the possibility of settling this conflict without Russia. Furthermore, these declarations have been backed up by practical actions. The result of those actions is that we are in constant contact with the U.S. representative, Redman, virtually every day. We discuss the strategy and tactics of future actions. When in the past couple of weeks we put forward the initiative of holding meetings with the Krajina Serbs and the Croatians to conclude a cease-fire agreement, which took place in our embassy in Zagreb 30 March, the Americans were involved in this. And they did their part of the work honorably. Even though this was a purely Russian initiative. So, based on the principle of truthfulness, I would put the question plainly in these terms: Russia must take a most active part in the Yugoslav settlement. Otherwise it will not be possible to bring the sides together and reach the agreement everyone needs.

[Sidorov] It is obvious that without the solution of the Serbian national question there will be no real settlement and peace in the Balkans.

[Churkin] I entirely agree with you, of course.

[Sidorov] The West, in my view, has its own concept of the settlement. In a certain sense the United States openly supported the historic striving of the Croats and Muslims for self-determination. Is Russia ready to support the Serbs living outside Serbia and Montenegro in their legitimate striving for self-determination?

[Churkin] First I would like to draw attention to the following fact. The United States put forward the concept of a Croatian-Muslim federation and a confederation between it and Croatia based on the sovereign rights of the Croatians and Muslims. But this does not mean the creation of an ethnically pure Croatian or Muslim state. On the contrary, this concept is based on a mix of Croatians and Muslims within the framework of a federation inside a single state. Plus a definite linkup [pristegivaniye] through a confederation with Croatia. What are we ready to do and what have we already achieved in the light of these proposals from the Americans? We have achieved recognition of the fact that the problem of Bosnia-Herzegovina cannot be resolved unless it is taken into account that in Bosnia-Herzegovina there are three peoples capable of forming a state [gosudarstvoobrazuyushchiy narod], each of which, including the Serbs, has its own sovereign rights and can make its own sovereign decisions. There is also the understanding that the solution of the problems of the regions of Croatia which the United Nations is protecting and the Serbs inhabit is also impossible without full regard for their rights.

[Sidorov] It is very difficult to try to understand what is happening outside the historical context or if you do not know how the conflict began. After all, it has long been known that it was not the Serbs who began the "ethnic cleansing" itself.

[Churkin] It is curious that each side has a completely opposing view on absolutely all questions, including history. But there is something that I would like to stress now. The world community, I am sure, will never accept that national problems be resolved by the forcible expulsion of the representatives of other nationalities. Unfortunately, all the peoples of the former Yugoslavia embroiled in the conflict did not understand sufficiently that it is necessary to take into account the national interests of other peoples. That is what ultimately led to the conflict.

[Sidorov] There are several internal causes of the conflict. But the Balkans have always been a sphere of interests of the great powers. Stability emerged there when they found a balance of those interests. In my opinion, the Serbs, Croats, and Muslims would have reached agreement long ago if there had not been outside interference. Let us take the policy of united Germany. Its interest was shown, among other things, in the fact that former FRG Foreign Minister H.-D. Genscher did his utmost to secure the recognition of Croatia from the members of the EC. Even though nine Community members opposed the premature recognition of Croatia, where hostilities were in progress. This was how "international recognition" of the forcible breakup of Yugoslavia began. Russia sided with the EC at that time. You surely were right when you said that this was more an anti-Serb position in Russian policy, which is generally speaking uncharacteristic of our relations with that people. After all, this was the destruction of the state in which the Serbian question and indeed other questions had been historically resolved. It was destroyed in the name of supporting the self-determination of the national republics.

[Churkin] No, I did not say that with regard to this specific question. What I said generally was that we were pursuing a more subtle policy. But let us examine this issue. It is a very important question. I hold the completely opposite viewpoint. It is that no matter how hard we—the intermediaries, peacemakers, call it what you will—try, until the sides themselves agree, until they

decide that the time has come to make peace and reach agreement, there will be no peace. And no one can help them there.

Now about Genscher and Germany's role. My view of matters is this. I would not disagree if you said to me that Germany wanted to see Croatia and Slovenia as independent states. They have their own historic ties. But it would be an exaggeration to say that Germany's position and the sentiments there were the prime cause of the breakup of Yugoslavia. The decision on recognition, even it was a mistake, as events subsequently showed, was motivated by the desire to prevent the spread of war. But what happened was the complete opposite, as can be seen particularly clearly in the case of Bosnia-Herzegovina. It seems to me that one lesson for the international community must be that it should have shown a certain modesty. There are international conflicts which cannot be prevented or settled merely by the authority of the international community. It is necessary to begin by understanding the logic of what is going on and not to immediately try to impose some kind of decisions.

[Sidorov] But yet the international community, as you call it in general terms, even though it consists of specific states with specific interests, and despite the warnings of many politicians, is recognizing Croatia, followed by Bosnia-Herzegovina. And then, to the roar of the guns, it seemed to say as an aside: This was a misunderstanding. It seems strange to me that Western diplomats could make so many mistakes. Is there not some other factor in evidence here? Perhaps the geopolitical cataclysms of the period of the disintegration of the USSR encouraged the temptation to "capture" spheres of influence in the Balkans, too?

[Churkin] Well, clearly this was influential. Admittedly, I do not know whether we should seek some evil design here. This is simply how things coincided. As the experts attest, people began talking about the danger of the disintegration of Yugoslavia back in 1980. In other words, it all began earlier over there. Probably if at that time we had not been so absorbed with our own internal problems we could have played a more energetic role in the international arena. And perhaps if we had acted jointly with others we could have alleviated or even prevented some things. But this is all hypothetical and, as we know, the hypothetical does not exist in history.

[Sidorov] Do you never get the impression that the war in Bosnia has nevertheless served someone's external interests? A unique, controllable crisis has arisen against the background of which various peace plans have appeared only to disappear. While essentially what we have is the division of Bosnia in two—between the Serbs and the Croats.

[Churkin] I do think so. I can say this because I have conversed on this topic with Muslims, with Izetbegovic and Silajdzic. There are politicians who have not deemed feasible or correct any solution which would lead to the creation of a Muslim state, albeit a small one, in Bosnia. This concerns even plans for a union out of the three republics. Even here they have seen the specter of the emergence of a Muslim state, fearing that the union would subsequently collapse while the state remained. On the other hand, there are very many questions which are intertwined here. But it is difficult for me to imagine a rational, cool decision by the world community that it is necessary to divide Bosnia and Herzegovina in two, as this creates an extremely dangerous precedent of national demarcation as a result of war. As far as the most promising ways of securing a political solution in Bosnia and Herzegovina are concerned, however, it seems to me that what we could have is the creation of a union in Bosnia and Herzegovina consisting of two parts—a Muslim-Croat federation and a Serb republic, or that part could be called something else. With the capital in Sarajevo. Here each part of the union will possess pretty extensive rights, but the territorial integrity of the state will nevertheless be preserved.

[Sidorov] I would like to return to what we started with—Russia's role in the Yugoslav settlement. As I see it, former Yugoslavia was a bipolar country. At the one pole you had Slovenia and Croatia, which gravitated toward the West, and at the other Serbia and Montenegro, traditional representatives of Eastern Christian culture. Such a state could exist as a single, stable formation only when you had a geopolitical balance between East and West. When people began talking about the need for Russia to be more active in the Balkans, I thought perhaps the West had realized that the world needs a distinctive role by Moscow which would restore some kind of balance in Europe. But, you know, you can only get a balance when Russia speaks in its own voice. Let the Americans play the banjo, while the Russians play the balalaika. It's a fine instrument, after all.

[Churkin] I simply have to agree with what you have said. But here a host of questions can harbor a host of subtexts. I will not enter into interpretation, because those who loudly demand, say, the restoration of the Warsaw Pact or the Soviet Union sometimes start exploiting the logic of discussion. That is history. What happened happened because of certain historical causes. This has undoubtedly had negative consequences. And both we ourselves and to some extent Yugoslavia too have suffered from this. But we are returning to major international affairs undoubtedly because in a certain sense the period of maturation of Russian foreign policy is complete. It has been very difficult for us, because it would be fundamentally wrong to suppose that Russia is the same as the former Soviet Union, only smaller. A new geopolitical situation, a very complex, multidirectional play of forces had arisen. And time was needed to grasp our position in the world, to sense our potential, to curb the chaotic processes under way on our borders, and to get a precise idea of the approaches of our partners—not only Western partners but our Eastern partners too—toward the new Russia. And then to adopt clearer stances in affairs which go beyond the crises happening literally on Russia's borders.

Bosnian Bombing Seen as Snubbing Yeltsin, Russia

MK1304111094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 15, 10-17 Apr 94 (Signed to press 12 Apr) p 5A

[Article by Yevgeniy Ambartsumov, political scientist and State Duma deputy, under the "Three Authors" rubric: "Echo of Bosnian Bombings"]

[Text] The NATO rocket strikes at Serb positions in Bosnia provoke a number of perplexing questions. Who made the decision on the air strike, by whom and how was it sanctioned? If this had been demanded by British General Rose, commander of the UN forces, why was it approved over the phone (!) by UN secretary general envoy Yasushi Akashi, a Japanese, who was in... Paris? Was the sanction not received from Butrus-Ghali himself? Why such a hurry at all in making so responsible a decision with such dangerous possible consequences?

Just a few days ago, U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry; General John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff; and indeed, Secretary of State Warren Christopher admitted: Air strikes serve no purpose because they may disrupt talks on a general peaceful settlement in Bosnia. Could that have been precisely someone's purpose?

True, by this "retribution strike" President Clinton seems to have refuted the accusations of being indecisive and inefficient, which he has been increasingly subjected to from his critics in the United States. Clinton thereby has avenged, as it were, the failure of the American operation in Somalia. Now he states: "We have risen to the occasion." A rather doubtful statement.

Amazingly, Moscow had not been even informed in advance about the planned bombing. What can account for such an attitude of Clinton to President Yeltsin, who once already opened to the Americans the way out of the impasse by his well-known peace initiative on Sarajevo, precluding their involvement in the Balkan war? Or is it that all means of demonstrating American leadership are good, and why think of the consequences?

And these consequences are rather serious. The American bombing hit at Yeltsin's trump card—cooperation with the West, the United States. How would the U.S. President's failure to honor the Russian-American understanding on mutual consultations in similar situations be interpreted? It is obvious that President Clinton is rather unceremoniously edging Russia out of solving the Balkan problems that are so painful for us. To a Russian, all this recalls Nozdrev [Gogol's character in "Dead Souls"] who, pointing at his own and his neighbor's field, said: "This is mine" and added: "Everything behind the woods (read: across the ocean) is also all mine."

Washington's moves undoubtedly compromise Russia's cooperation with the West and add grist for the national-radicals opposed to Yeltsin. One can imagine the zeal with which Mr. Zhirinovskiy will now descend upon American and, for that matter, Russian foreign policy: American rockets for him are a godsend! And what will Russian representatives feel when they sign the "Partnership for Peace" with NATO to the echo of the bombings? Or maybe the events are interlinked so as to derail the signing, to push Russia aside?

The disregard for the agreed on consultations with Security Council permanent members in advance of UN military operations arouses a sense of protest. As indeed does the statement on the NATO bombings coming "automatically" on instructions from UN commanders in Bosnia, hence once again bypassing the Security Council. Can one actually identify the United Nations with the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance?

The bombings may be expected to weaken sharply the positions of such relatively moderate Serb politicians as Milosevic and Karadzic. Until recently, they managed somehow to contain the "implacable" in their ranks, for instance General Mladic, the Bosnian Serbs commander. Now they will have to radicalize their stance.

Apropos Mladic. A year or so ago, meeting him in Pale, I tried to persuade him to stop shelling the beleaguered towns. "Is there any military reason for such shellings?" "No," he replied without batting an eye. "Why then you do it? Can't you see you are sapping your own prestige in the world?" "We'll think." High time for the Serb radicals also to reach the conclusion that continued bloodshed in Bosnia is against the genuine interests of the Serbs themselves.

Now it is extremely sad that civilians once again suffer from the bombings. Such is the result of American military operations be it in Bosnia, Panama, or Somalia: They are ostensibly undertaken to protect people but as a result it is innocent civilians who die, and often on a greater scale than before the interference.

One may hope that in the critical situation that has taken shape, the Russian state will demonstrate its dignity and intention to protect its interests, and Russian diplomacy will demonstrate its skill in gluing together the broken pots. To all appearances, gluing them together now would be much harder.

Yeltsin Not To Risk U.S. Ties Over Serb 'Inflexibility'

PM1204165394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Apr 94 pp 1, 3

[Maksim Yusin report: "NATO Resolve and Serb Stubbornness Put Russian Diplomacy in Difficult Position"]

[Text] Despite Moscow's resolute objections, NATO aircraft have followed up their first strike against Bosnian Serb positions in the Gorazde area with

another. In an interview with news agencies NATO spokesmen did not rule out the possibility of new bombing raids—in the event of the Serbs failing to stop their shelling of the besieged Muslim enclave.

For their part, the Bosnian Serb leaders have also taken a hard-line stance. Momcilo Krajisnik, speaker of the self-proclaimed Serb Republic parliament, threatened retaliatory "political and military measures," hinting that the Serbs would continue their offensive against Gorazde.

Russian diplomacy finds itself in an unpleasant position. Events are taking a most undesirable turn for Moscow. For as long as stress was laid on peace talks, Russia successfully played the role of intermediary in the Bosnian settlement, winning one diplomatic victory after another. But as soon as hostilities commenced between the Serbs and NATO, the world has seen for itself that the Kremlin's ability to influence the development of the situation is very limited.

The Russian protests have had no impact. "Our reaction was entirely appropriate for the circumstances," U.S. President Bill Clinton said in a phone call to Boris Yeltsin. New Zealand's Colin Keating, who is chairing the UN Security Council this month, rejected a Russian proposal to urgently convene the Council. NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner, responding to criticism from [Russian Federation Foreign Minister] Andrey Kozyrev, said that the preliminary consultations with Moscow on which the Russian minister had insisted would have taken too much time and would not have allowed the main task—of protecting the UN personnel threatened by the Serb guns—to have been resolved. Our Paris correspondent Yuriy Kovalenko reports that Woerner warned the Serbs against any retaliatory strikes, noting that NATO has so far used just two aircraft to bomb the Serb positions, but that more major operations could be carried out if necessary.

If this happens, relations between Russia and the West will be put to a new test. But, if things reach serious crisis point, President Yeltsin attaches too great an importance to ties with the United States and West Europe to put them at risk over the inflexibility of the Bosnian Serbs.

All the more so as the Serbs' actions over the past few days have caused poorly concealed irritation in Moscow. Despite all the Kremlin's efforts to persuade the Serbs to compromise and to make them at least end the shelling of Gorazde, they preferred to go on playing with fire. The NATO strikes were therefore inevitable, and Russian mediation was useless. This was something that was stated with some bitterness in a TV interview by Yeltsin's special representative Vitaliy Churkin, pinning on the Serbs a considerable amount of the responsibility for the deterioration in the situation.

Russian diplomats were also very disappointed at the behavior of Radovan Karadzic, the leader of the "Serb Republic." Meeting with Churkin, he assured him that he had ordered an end to the bombardment of the Muslim enclave. Despite this, the shelling continues, which gives NATO an excuse for a new strike—entirely in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 836, which declared Gorazde a "safe haven."

This resolution, passed 4 June 1993, was adopted unanimously by the Security Council members (including Russia and China). This removes most of the arguments from the Russian diplomats who are contesting NATO's action.

Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Department, told IZVESTIYA that, for Russia, protecting the "blue helmets" is no idle question, since there are Russian peacekeeping forces in Bosnia too. But, as he put it, Moscow will not put up with the role of a junior partner who is informed only when people want to hear a "yes." Russia insists on the complete cessation of hostilities in the Gorazde area, including air strikes. Kozyrev has set out this position in a phone call with the U.S. secretary of state.

Kozyrev, French Counterpart Discuss Yugoslav Situation

LD1404114094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1111 GMT 14 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow April 14 TASS—The idea of stepping up interaction among the European Union, Russia, the United States and the United Nations toward settlement in former Yugoslavia was discussed during a telephone conversation on Thursday between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his French counterpart Alain Juppe. Spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry Grigoriy Karasin told this a briefing on Thursday.

He said that the Russian foreign minister, in accordance with the instruction from President Boris Yeltsin, declared for stepping up work in this direction, including the effort to work out an effective mechanism to scale down the conflict. "This is in keeping with the discussion of the Yugoslav events in the State Duma on Wednesday," Karasin said.

Air Defense Troops Force Down U.S. Plane

LD1404091294 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0800 GMT 14 Apr 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] Russian air defense aircraft have intercepted a small U.S. private airplane over Kamchatka and forced it to land on our territory because it had violated Russian airspace. After the circumstances were clarified, the airplane was refuelled and allowed to continue its flight. [passage omitted]

INTERFAX reports that Russian air defense troops were alerted by the fact that when the private jet violated

flight rules an American RSI-135 [as heard] spy aircraft was flying near the Russian state border at the same altitude and at the same speed. An investigation into the incident has started.

Yeltsin Wraps Up Spain Visit in Barcelona 13 Apr

LD1304130694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1210 GMT 13 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova, Nikita Yermakov, Yuriy Sizov and Vladimir Shekhovtsov]

[Text] Barcelona April 13 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin arrived in the Catalonian capital of Barcelona today morning. This is the second lap of his official visit to Spain.

At the Barcelona international airport the head of the Russian state was welcomed by Jordi Pujol, chairman of the Catalonian autonomous government, and other officials.

At Hotel "Juan Carlos 1" Yeltsin met the directorate of the Barcelona hospital, where he was operated in 1990. He thanked the Barcelona physicians for the medical aid given him at that time.

Views 'Irresponsible' Bosnia Raid

PM1404083594 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 14 Apr 94 p 7

[Maksim Chikin report: "Ending on Health. On Last Day of Spanish Visit Boris Nikolayevich Spoke of Bosnia, Civic Consensus, and His Own Health"]

[Text] Madrid—Apart from the seven documents signed by the Russian leadership in Spain, the leadership was also enriched with theoretical knowledge about the achievement of civic peace in the country. The fact is that in October 1977, two years after Franco's death, the so-called "Moncloa Pact"—an agreement reminiscent of the "Agreement on Civic Peace" that is in preparation in Russia—was signed in Spain. In the document all Spain's political parties, trade unions, entrepreneurs, and, naturally, its government agreed that it was time to build democracy peacefully in the country. The 101-page document was closely studied by the Russian president. Boris Yeltsin spent several hours with Spanish Premier Gonzalez to learn all the details of this consensus.

As for the practical application of foreign experience, the Russian president made the following comment at a press conference: "We intend to sign the document 28 April and so far we are not backtracking from that. It is supported by the leadership of the State Duma and the Federation Council, the government, most parties and social movements, and so forth. I think that most will sign on the 28th, and the document will later be open for signing by those who want to do so."

It so happened that the state visit to Spain was held in the context of Bosnia. On Tuesday Boris Yeltsin reiterated that the "decision to carry out bombing raids was irresponsible, and full responsibility for the possible consequences will lie with those who made this decision." From Russia's standpoint, the outcome of the conflict should be settled solely by negotiations. This is what Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin, who is currently in the former Yugoslavia, is trying to achieve. The Russian president stated that, if necessary, he is prepared to urgently send Foreign Minister Kozyrev there too.

The third and final day of the visit was spent in Barcelona and was full of different official events. Yeltsin met with Spanish doctors, whom he again thanked for their brilliant operation in 1990 after his aircraft's unsuccessful landing in Barcelona. In general the problem of the Russian president's health was not sidestepped. The newspapers have been enthusiastically picking up on this topic. B. Yeltsin said literally the following on the subject:

"I would like everyone my age to have the same health as I have. Can someone who always plays a really hard game of tennis for 90 minutes (and with partners who are masters and meritorious masters of sport), someone who swims in the Black Sea in March when the water temperature is four degrees, have poor health? Someone who works 16-18 hours a day with hardly any days off.... That's something to be envied.

"The other day I told my doctors—let's do an all-day checkup this year, with any journalist present who wants to be. In any laboratory...they can do blood tests...do anything they want, you understand, to see how strong I am, how.... And we can do this all day, so that not only Russia but the entire world will know what is inside me."

Dismisses Health Rumors

PM1404082394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Apr 94 p 3

[Vladimir Vernikov and Vasiliy Kononenko report: "Boris Yeltsin Makes Tempting Proposal to Madrid Businessmen. Spanish Scent Big Money"]

[Text] Madrid-Barcelona—The Bosnia crisis could not spoil the atmosphere of the Russian-Spanish dialogue in Madrid. B. Yeltsin and Premier F. Gonzalez called it very successful and interesting.

Boris Yeltsin advised that so far Russia and Spain have been trading very badly—Spain accounts for just 2 percent of Russia's foreign trade turnover. In a frank and categorical way he attempted to win over around 200 top Spanish businessmen with whom he held a business lunch at the Ritz Hotel. The president announced that the government is currently drawing up new foreign economic legislation which will envisage, in particular, the granting of most-favored status to foreign investors and the creation of conditions for delivering goods to the

Russian market similar to those which exist for Russian producers. Admittedly, despite the well-known pressure on him in Russia, he did not reject the use of import tariffs as an instrument for regulating foreign trade.

The businessmen listened with interest to the president's promise to provide guarantees for investors against any political surprises. Certain specific proposals were also voiced—to modernize several oil refineries and even to get involved in opening up oil fields in Udmurtia and Krasnoyarsk Kray. The Spanish scented big money in these proposals.

They have all been beaten to the punch by Pedro Balvye [name as transliterated], president of the Campofrio meat processing concern. Having taken a chance on investing in Russia several years ago, this concern is now not only operating successfully in Moscow but is even building another major plant. Visiting a Campofrio enterprise near Madrid, Boris Yeltsin was clearly surprised in one shop to see large hams going round on a mechanical carousel. Many Russian tourists even think that these popular smoked hams, to be found in every Spanish bar and restaurant looking as natural as if they had been painted by Rubens, are plaster casts. The journalists were waiting for the tasting, and were speculating on which wine the president would choose to accompany the ham. But they were disappointed—he did not touch anything.

At a press conference an Italian journalist asked Boris Yeltsin about his health. The president replied:

"I would like everyone my age to have the same health as I have. I play tennis, swim in the Black Sea in March when the water temperature is four degrees, and work 16-18 hours a day with hardly any days off. I would like to make the following offer to those who try to upset me by talking about my health: I am prepared to undergo an all-day checkup [dispanserizatsiya] with journalists present. Let the doctors do their examinations and produce their analyses, and then everyone will know my state of health."

Terms Visit 'Fruitful'

LD1304215894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1835 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] In an interview with Interfax and RIA news agencies on Wednesday evening President Boris Yeltsin summed up the main results of his first official visit to Spain.

"The main thing is that the visit was fruitful. The foundation for active cooperation between Russia and Spain was laid", the president said. He pointed to the significance of the friendship and cooperation treaty as well as several other key agreements signed in Madrid.

He also attached great importance to personal relations with the Spanish leaders and politicians, which he described as very good.

"I felt that Spaniards were as attracted to Russia as Russians to Spain. Nothing separates us, while Europe, European affairs, common security and concerns about economic stability in both Russia and Spain unite use", Yeltsin said.

The president spoke of the importance of the Spanish experience of the transition from dictatorship to democracy. He said Russians should draw useful conclusions from this experience.

Yeltsin again spoke for signing a cooperation agreement between Russia and the European Union in the nearest future.

On Russia's membership in the NATO Partnership for Peace program Yeltsin said the country will gradually prepare for signing such an agreement, but will not hurry.

Sums Up Visit to Spain

LD1304185594 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Today Barcelona welcomed Boris Yeltsin who completed the official part of his visit to Spain yesterday. [passage omitted] Boris Yeltsin briefly answered journalists's questions.

[Begin Yeltsin recording] Foundations have been laid down for cooperation between us that I think will develop very actively in the future, now that a treaty has been signed, together with a number of important agreements. I consider my personal contacts with the King, the government chairman, the chairman of Catalonia, and other politicians a matter of no small importance. This was a good contact on a human level. There is nothing to divide us. We are united by Europe, the European issues we have in common, the questions of security common to all of us, and of course the issue of economic stability both in Russia and in Spain. There is a lot we can learn here, and I was interested to hear about the Spanish experience of the transitional period, which we too are currently going through. There are some lessons we can learn from it, and this will be beneficial to Russians and to Russia itself. [end recording]

The Russian president's plane is expected to land in Moscow very shortly.

Yeltsin Returns to Moscow

LD1304185994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1835 GMT 13 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow April 13 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin returned to Moscow on Wednesday after his official visit to Spain.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin said the major result of his three-day visit to Spain is its "fruitfulness."

Yeltsin said the visit and the agreements signed, including the treaty of friendship and cooperation, have laid "the foundation for vigorous bilateral cooperation" between the two countries.

Envoys Meet Fleet Officers After Talks With Kravchuk

MK1404081094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 14 Apr 94 p 1

[Konstantin Parishkura report: CIS Heads To Discuss Black Sea Fleet Problems"]

[Text] Yuriy Dubinin, Russian Federation ambassador at large, and Feliks Gromov, commander in chief of the Russian Navy, announced on 13 April, following a meeting with senior officers of the Black Sea Fleet in Sevastopol, that their meeting with Ukraine President Leonid Kravchuk on 12 April "was constructive," and expressed the hope for resolving the Black Sea Fleet problems during the 15 April meeting of CIS leaders. An officers' meeting in Sevastopol passed on 13 April an appeal to the heads of Russia and Ukraine that voices indignation at the Ukrainian side's actions.

Foreign Ministry Regrets Not Visiting Odessa

LD1404120394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1102 GMT 14 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow, 14 Apr—The Russian Foreign Ministry has expressed regret that the Russian delegation sent to Ukraine in connection with the recent incidents around the Black Sea Fleet was not given the opportunity of visiting Odessa. This was said at a briefing today by Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's information and press department.

He said "the Russian delegation proposed visiting Odessa together with Ukrainian representatives." According to G. Karasin, "the Russian side made this proposal in the belief that a joint visit to Odessa by Russian and Ukrainian representatives and their possible meetings and conversations with people could have been received with satisfaction and understanding by public opinion both in Russia and Ukraine and would have helped ease the tension which has arisen following the recent incidents around the Black Sea Fleet in Odessa." Such a joint working visit would undoubtedly have been in the spirit of cooperation and friendship between our peoples, the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

DPRK Envoy Skeptical Over Russian Talks Proposal

SK1404055894 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1000 GMT 13 April 94

[Text] Son Song-pil, DPRK ambassador to Russia, made a skeptical assessment of Moscow's proposal calling on Pyongyang to participate in the international meeting to discuss the situation on the Korean peninsula.

He, in an interview with reporters in Moscow, said he doubts whether the meeting is necessary when the majority of parties that will participate in the meeting are pro-U.S. He also pointed out that participating in the meeting would place the DPRK in a very difficult position.

Ambassador Son said he sees the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula as a matter between Pyongyang and Washington. If the issue is internationalized, (?finding a solution to the nuclear problem would be even more difficult), he added.

Russia Takes Flexible Stance on Korean Nuke Problem

LD1304185894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1828 GMT 13 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Geronin and Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow April 13 TASS—"Russia has taken a flexible stance on ways of settlement of the nuclear problem on the Korean Peninsula. The most important thing for the Russian diplomacy is that the problem be resolved," said Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov in an interview with ITAR-TASS on Wednesday.

"Our position presupposes that this problem can be resolved both at bilateral talks and in the framework of the U.N. Security Council, but even if this yields no results, possibilities of an international conference should be used," Panov said.

According to Panov, a Russia-suggested idea of holding an international conference on problems of ensuring security and a nuclear-free status of the Korean Peninsula is being rejected neither by China, nor by Japan or South Korea. As for North Korea, at the present stage, Pyongyang is coming out for the settlement of the nuclear problem only at bilateral talks with the United States, Panov said.

The Russian diplomat pointed out that Russia cannot agree with statements that an international conference will procrastinate the negotiating process. It is bilateral talks that impede the solution of the problem, he said.

"One cannot say that this is a bilateral problem only. It concerns the whole world community once at issue is North Korea's withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Moreover, this problem mostly concerns countries located in close proximity to the Korean Peninsula," the Russian diplomat said.

He spoke on problems of the Korean Peninsula in connection with talks between heads of the Russian and South Korean foreign ministries scheduled on Thursday,

which would be attended by South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu who arrived in Moscow today.

ROK Foreign Minister Views Visit to Moscow

LD1304180294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1215 GMT 13 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Nikolay Geronin and Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Apr—"We are very grateful to Russia for its interest in the problem of the Korean Peninsula and its concern in this matter", Han Sung-chu, the foreign minister of the Korean Republic, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent at Sheremetyevo-2 airport today. Replying to a question about Seoul's attitude to Moscow's proposal to hold an international conference on questions of ensuring the security and nuclear-free status of the Korean Peninsula, he said that the Republic of Korea will continue consultations on the conference with Russia and other interested sides.

Han Sung-chu arrived in Moscow today on a visit, during the course of which on Thursday [14 April] he will be holding talks with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, and meet the leadership of the Russian Federal Assembly.

At the talks with the head of Russia's foreign political department, Han Sung-chu noted, questions of the preparations for the visit of Kim Yong-sam, the president of the Republic of Korea, to Russia in June will be discussed. Various subjects, including how to solve the nuclear problem of the DPRK, will be examined. "We will also examine questions of cooperation between our two countries in the economic and diplomatic spheres," the South Korean minister said.

ROK, Russian Foreign Minister Meet

LD1404104894 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Talks between Andrey Kozyrev and Han Sung-chu, the foreign ministers of Russia and South Korea respectively, are now in progress in Moscow. They are discussing bilateral relations, the situation on the Korean peninsula, the problem of nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, and other issues.

Chief of Staff on PRC Trip, Pressure on DPRK

LD1404110794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1032 GMT 14 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Grigoriy Arslanov and Vyacheslav Tomilin]

[Text] Beijing April 14 TASS—The Russian Defence Ministry attaches prime importance to the development of relations with the Armed Forces of China. We remember that we are linked by the common border stretching for 4.5 thousand kilometers. My generation remembers periods of confrontation, including military, particularly in border areas. Russia and China have worked out a common position—relations between the two countries and their armies must become good-neighbourly and fraternal in character—Russia's Chief of Staff Colonel-General Mikhail Kolesnikov said in an interview with ITAR-TASS today.

During his visit to China, which ended today, General Kolesnikov had talks with his Chinese counterpart Zhang Wannian and Deputy Chairman of the Central Military Council of the Chinese People's Republic Liu Huanqin.

In the course of the talks, General Kolesnikov said, "The two neighbours conducted a frank exchange of views. We stick to the policy of further rapprochement between the armies of the two countries and regard China as an equal partner. We have what to share [as received] with China, including in the military-technical sphere", he said. General Kolesnikov explained that he means deliveries of different kinds of armaments and military equipment, in which China is interested and sending Russian military specialists to China to help partners in making proper use of the deliveries, and the training of Chinese officers in Russian higher schools, up to the General Staff Academy. China expressed the desire to continue negotiations on further interaction along all these lines on a regular and planned basis.

General Kolesnikov said he had a frank exchange of views with Chinese colleagues about the Korean peninsula nuclear problem. "Our viewpoints are quite close. Russia and China, two of the officially recognised five nuclear powers, are categorically against any proliferation of nuclear technologies", he said.

According to the Russian general, the situation in Northeast Asia is further complicated by "the unfairly tough pressure" that is being brought to bear on Pyongyang by international organisations, including the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency, as well as the United States. On the other hand, he said, North Korea is sticking to "a tough and inflexible stand". Both sides should be more yielding if they want a solution that would suit all, General Kolesnikov said.

As concerns his impressions from visiting Beijing and Shanghai, General Kolesnikov stressed that radical economic reforms are being carried out in China in conditions of political stability, and the country looks "like one large construction site".

Spokesman: Islands Near Khabarovsk Russian Territory

LD1304193094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1026 GMT 13 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksandr Romanov]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Apr—We are proceeding on the basis that the Bolshoy Ussuriyskiy and Tarabarovy islands near Khabarovsk are Russian. This is the position that our representatives have been expounding and defending at the talks with the Chinese side on border issues, the ITAR-TASS correspondent was told today by a senior Russian Foreign Ministry staff member. Moreover they have been and remain de facto under our control. The border talks with China, he said, are not hampering this territory being under our jurisdiction.

The high-ranking Russian Foreign Ministry staff member elucidated the situation in connection with a report that a public committee to promote and consolidate the Russian status of these islands has been set up in Khabarovsk. The committee has sent an appeal to Federal Assembly deputies proposing that a demand be made that the Russian Foreign Ministry should "officially and precisely express the position of the Russian state on the immutable Russian status of the islands."

The diplomat said the position of the Russian Foreign Ministry had been determined in accordance with the government's instructions for holding talks on demarcating the border with the People's Republic of China. The talks have been under way for 30 years now. They made it possible for the first time in the history of relations between the two countries in May 1991 to sign the agreement between the USSR and the PRC on the eastern section of the Soviet-Chinese state border. The document was ratified by the Russian and Chinese parliaments and afterwards signed by the Russian president and the PRC chairman. It therefore has the force of a treaty.

At present the line of the border between Russia and China, which extends for 4,300 km, has been more than 98 percent agreed upon, excluding two sectors—the islands near Khabarovsk and the Bolshoy island on the river Argun in Chita Oblast. As for the Chinese maps, which designate these islands as PRC territory, that is a matter for the Chinese side. Russia's representatives at the border talks have repeatedly mentioned these cartographical inaccuracies, but for quite understandable reasons we cannot make the Chinese designate the aforementioned islands as ours on their maps. Naturally on Russian maps they are shown belonging to the territory of Russia.

By mutual agreement of the sides the border talks are strictly confidential. This is so work involving representatives of the Foreign Ministry, Defense Ministry and other departments may proceed in a calm atmosphere. The fact that the inhabitants of the Amur valley are insufficiently well-informed on these issues is to be explained precisely by this circumstance. According to the senior Russian Foreign Ministry staff member, a certain amount of concern locally has been produced by reports in the Japanese press claiming that the islands near Khabarovsk have already been handed over to China, which in no way corresponds to reality.

Chernomyrdin, Tajikistan's Samadov Sign Agreements

LD1304122094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1041 GMT 13 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Apr—Intergovernmental Russian-Tajik talks ended today with the signing of two agreements—on Russian participation in completing the construction of the Rogun GES [hydroelectric power station] and on a Russian loan to Tajikistan of 80 billion rubles to be advanced during 1994. The delegations from the two countries were headed by Prime Ministers Viktor Chernomyrdin and Abdulmadjid Samadov.

Answering a question from an ITAR-TASS correspondent, the chairman of the Tajik Council of Ministers disclosed that economic relations between the two countries were discussed during the talks.

The nature of these relations is currently determined to a great extent by the economic situation in our republic and the need to resolve tasks involved in the unification of the Tajik and Russian monetary systems, he said. Samadov added that the 80 billion rubles loan would be spent largely on repayment of debts to Russian suppliers of goods.

Referring to today's announcement that the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev would not be attending the CIS summit on 15 April in Moscow, Chernomyrdin said that he has not yet been informed officially of this. As for Nazarbayev's idea of creating a Euro-Asian union, Chernomyrdin believes that at the moment there is no substance to this idea. At all events, the prime minister said, I do not know what lies behind this proposal.

The head of the Russian Government agreed that the leaders of many CIS countries were unhappy with the present state of cooperation within the Commonwealth, which, as Chernomyrdin put it, now needs to be intensified. We must move on to action rather than words, he said.

Gaydar Views Monetary Union Agreement With Belarus

LD1304162894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1356 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] The agreement on the unification of the Russian and Belarusian monetary systems, signed by the prime ministers on Tuesday, differs from the original draft, leader of the Russia's Choice faction Yegor Gaydar told Interfax in an exclusive interview.

He said that among the most essential amendments was the integration of the National Bank of Belarus with Russia's Central Bank.

This circumstance gives hope for a better regulation of Russian-Belarusian monetary relations and is expected to enhance the efficiency of this document, said Gaydar. However, the agreement does not specify during what period the National Bank of Belarus will become a branch of the Central Bank, he continued.

He expressed deep concern about the decision on exchanging the Belarusian citizens' deposits and cash. According to the agreement, every Belarusian citizen is to exchange 200,000 Belarusian coupons at the 1:1 rate, so the total sum to be exchanged at such a rate will amount to two trillion rubles.

As the worth of the Belarusian coupon will be artificially increased, and given the difference between the worth of the cash and non-cash Belarusian coupon, large-scale manipulations of cash in both countries are likely to take place, said Gaydar.

Before the agreement goes into force and is ratified by the Russian and Belarusian parliaments, fantastic opportunities will emerge for financial machinations involving sums worth billions of dollars, he went on to say.

He pointed out that the agreement makes the economy hostage to political games, especially on the eve of parliamentary elections in Belarus.

Incidents in Baltics May Delay Final Troop Withdrawal

MK1304093094 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Apr 94 p 3

[Sergey Knyazkov report under the "Postscriptum Events and Comments" rubric: "Shooting on Baltic Practice Ranges May Drag Out. The Signing by Presidents of Russia and Latvia of Accords on Russian Troops Withdrawal From This Baltic Country Is Postponed"]

[Text] The Defense Ministry of Estonia has announced that servicemen of the 114th Motorized Rifle Division of the Russian Armed Forces stationed in Tallinn conducted on 7 April practice firing on the Manchiku range on Tallinn's outskirts without permission from the Estonian authorities. Representatives of the Estonian Armed Forces were not invited to the range to observe the firing practice.

"Yes, we do hold combat training sessions," Guards Colonel Yevgeniy Lazebin, the division's chief of staff, said, confirming the information. "It is not being done spontaneously but rather in line with approved plans and schedules. Servicemen perform firing drills using submachine guns, and practice grenade throwing which, incidentally, is done once every six months. Since we have not handed over the range to Estonia, it is being used for regular training sessions of which we are not supposed to notify the Estonian side," Lazebin underlined.

It is not accidental that KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has to explain in such detail what appears to be a fairly banal situation involving servicemen of the Northwestern Group of Forces. It so happened that precisely the same situation that took shape two weeks earlier in Latvia led to a protest note by the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Latvia. It maintained that during a 16 March firing practice, unsanctioned by local authorities, on the firing range of the Russian military unit stationed in Stopinskaya Volost of Riga Rayon, an incident took place between Latvian militia members and Russian servicemen. Alas, this information, too, needs some explaining. Col. Igor Golin, chief of the Northwestern Group of Forces press center, explained that the practice firing was carried out on a planned basis and had been agreed with the local authorities—not by Russian servicemen at all, but by civilians: militarized guards hired on contract to guard the Russian military unit's storages.

The Baltic states' desire to part with the Russian army as soon as possible is to be appreciated. And for as long as it remains in Latvia and Estonia, combat training will continue there. It may even drag out because both in the Baltics and in Russia there are many forces wishing to derail the dialogue between Russia and the Baltic countries. As Sergey Krasavchenko, deputy head of the Russian president's staff, has stated to ITAR-TASS, "the error (in the Russian Federation president's directive No. 174 on the creation of military bases in CIS states and the Latvian Republic.—Note by S.K.) was not technical but a political action aimed at derailing the meeting between the heads of Russia and Latvia. The aim has, unfortunately, been reached—Guntis Ulmanis has canceled the visit to Moscow planned for 20 April.

Council of Europe Membership Set for Early 1995

PM1304115394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Apr 94 p 3

[Report by Yuriy Kovalenko: "Russia Will Cross the Council of Europe Threshold in Early 1995"]

[Text] Strasbourg—The difficult process of Russia's entry into the Council of Europe, which has dragged on for two long years, finally reached its concluding stage today. Now Russia will apparently join this prestigious organization, bringing together 32 states, at the very beginning of 1995. This was stated in Strasbourg by Miguel Martinez, president of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly.

Observers present at the Russian parliamentary elections deemed them "free and democratic." The holding of elections, together with the adoption of the new Constitution, removed any doubts and objections concerning Russia's admission.

Moscow has signed a number of key agreements and conventions of the Council of Europe and has become actively involved in its activities. Full membership of the organization, Federation Council Speaker Vladimir Shumeyko said at a Parliamentary Assembly session, will

help improve Russian legislation and will provide powerful support in the building of democracy. It will give Russia access to European programs in the spheres of human rights, culture, education, information, and ecology. Finally, by joining the Council, V. Shumeyko stressed, our country will be able to participate effectively in the shaping of European policy in all these areas.

Zhirinovskiy on Revising East Europe Borders

LD1304214594 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] In a broadcast on the Russian Kaliningrad region state television, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party, said that there are real possibilities for changing state borders in East Europe.

The Baltic News Service reports that, in the opinion of Zhirinovskiy, the German-Polish, Polish-Ukrainian and Lithuanian-Russian borders should be revised. He stated that Russia and Germany have always been the main powers in Europe, therefore their requirements should be satisfied first of all. Asked about the further fate of the Kaliningrad region, the Russian national radical stated that it has to become a bridge between Russia and Germany.

Vladimir Zhirinovskiy has stated more than once that the Baltic states must belong to the Russian empire, and he promised to bury radioactive waste near the Lithuanian border.

Palestinian Envoy Views Moscow's Mideast Role

LD1304154494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1329 GMT 13 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Babkin]

[Text] Moscow April 13 TASS—"Russia is destined to play an important role in the promotion of the Middle East settlement," ITAR-TASS was told today by Amin Barakat, ambassador of the Palestinian state to Russia, in connection with Yasir 'Arafat's visit to the Russian Federation, expected to begin on April 19.

Speaking about the goals of Palestinian President 'Arafat's trip to the Russian capital, the ambassador said that this would be his first visit to the Russian Federation. In the course of talks with Russian officials, 'Arafat will discuss the deadlines for the establishment of Palestinian autonomy and for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from territories where Palestinian self-government is to be proclaimed. He also said that 'Arafat had addressed a message to Russian President Boris Yeltsin. The document calls on Russia to exert influence on Israel in order to make it fulfil the terms of the "Gaza-Jericho-First" agreement, in accordance with which Palestinian self-government is to be established in the Gaza Strip and in the area around Jericho (the Western Bank). The second purpose of the visit is to discuss bilateral relations in the political and economic spheres. A Russo-Palestinian agreement on cooperation in these spheres is expected to be concluded.

Asked what the Palestinian leadership expected from Russia in the process of the Mideast settlement, Barakat said: Russia's role is clear. It is a member of the U.N. Security Council and co-chairman of the Madrid peace conference, and one of the initiators of the "Gaza-Jericho-First" agreement, signed in Washington last year. In my opinion, Russia will play an important role in the further promotion of the settlement process at the stage when it helped, together with the Palestine side, to break the deadlock in this process.

The ambassador expressed the hope that Russia, which is a great country with a huge potential, would help Palestine to estabish its national statehood.

Touching on problems, interfering with the early fulfilment of the Palestine-Israeli "Gaza-Jericho-First" agreement, the ambassador said that representatives of the two sides were now discussing in Cairo the details of its implementation, linked with the Israeli withdrawal from the territories that are to be transferred to Palestinian self-government, with the security measures that are to be taken there, and also with the transfer of powers to the Palestinian national authorities after the withdrawal of the Israeli Army. He noted that Israel was trying to misinterpret the formulations of the agreement at the Cairo talks. "Instead of deciding how Israel is to withdraw from those territories, the talks are again being focused on individual provisions of the agreement," the Palestinian ambassador noted. "We shall continue the negotiations without renouncing our vision of autonomy, which will eventually develop into a Palestinian state," he added.

Embassy in Kigali To Remain Open 'For Time Being'

LD1304135494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1223 GMT 13 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow April 13 TASS—"The Russian Foreign Ministry is not planning to close down the Russian Embassy in Rwanda for the time being," Leonid Safonov, head of the Africa Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, told ITAR-TASS today. He also said that the staff members of the Russian Embassy and of the "Aeroflot" office, who were evacuated together with their families from Rwanda to Burundi, would return to Moscow on April 15. Only the ambassador and 2 or 3 members of the embassy will remain in Kigali.

Twenty-two Russian citizens were evacuated from Rwanda on April 12. The Russian Foreign Ministry decided not to risk the lives of its representatives there. The Russian ambassador in Rwanda was instructed to get in touch with Russian women, married to Rwanda citizens and wishing to leave the country. "However, most of them preferred to stay in Rwanda," Safonov stated. There are now 15 such Russian women in Rwanda. There are also 10 Russian employees of the United Nations in the country.

Political Issues

Ryabov Details Draft Electoral Rights Law

MK1404104094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 14 Apr 94 p 2

[Yelena Tregubova report under the "Document" rubric: "Law on Electoral Rights To Be Passed to President One of These Days. Central Electoral Commission Expects To Push it Though State Duma Before Summer Recess"]

[Text] Nikolay Ryabov, chairman of the Central Electoral Commission [CEC], has said that one of these days he will submit to the president the draft law "On the Main Guarantees of the Electoral Rights of Russian Federation Citizens," drawn up by CEC experts. The document will reaffirm the "framework" provisions regulating the conduct of elections, which under the new Constitution should be "specified" in local election statutes in each Federation component. The CEC chief recalled that in the absence of "federal legal guidelines" regional elections were held from December to April only on the basis of local enforceable enactments. The draft law, its authors say, will guarantee the right to appeal in court against the violation of electoral rights, a right which was not set forth in some local "electoral codes." This version, however, also merely mentions the responsibility of violators, but lacks a specific mechanism of punishing them. What Nikolay Ryabov sees as the "key" provision of the new law is the solution to the question of the Central Electoral Commission's funding: according to the draft, a separate line in the government budget will be introduced to finance the CEC. Ryabov explained that "the government has suggested that it itself should give us money, as it gives it to any ministry, but we refused, seeing this as a matter decisive for the commission's independence."

CEC members will be appointed by all branches of power: the CEC chairman, by the president; his deputy and six commission members, by the Federation Council; and the CEC secretary and the other six members, by the State Duma. Local electoral commissions will be formed under the new law "on a parity basis" by regional representative and executive branches of power.

The draft stipulates "equal terms" and "equal rights" in the nomination of candidates by electoral associations. The term "electoral association" itself is defined in the draft as "a public association, the charter of which envisions participation in elections, created and registered in accordance with law not later than six months before the announced date of the respective elections."

"Independent" candidates will be required under a provision of the draft law to state their party affiliation publicly. According to Mr. Ryabov, this was done taking into account the lessons of the recent local elections "so as activists of a certain hue, who have already been branded three times, will no longer be able to pass for lambs."

The final draft of the law will be presented today to the roundtable at the Central Electoral Commission, to which State Duma and Federation Council deputies, leaders of political parties, and influential public figures have been invited.

According to Aleksandr Ivanchenko, deputy chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, the draft was approved in general by senior officials at the presidential administration. Nikolay Ryabov hopes that the president himself will also approve the document and will sponsor it at the State Duma as his own legislative initiative. Afterward, the CEC chief thinks, the State Duma will have to pass the law "On the Main Guarantees of the Electoral Rights of Russian Federation Citizens" even before its summer recess.

Zhirinovskiy Sues Gaydar, Kozyrev, Sobchak

LD1304163394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1356 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Legal suits demanding 1.5 Bn [billion] rubles in total for the protection of honor and dignity were brought by the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia Vladimir Zhirinovskiy against Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak, the State Duma deputy Yegor Gaydar, and retired KGB Major General Oleg Kalugin, Zhirinovskiy's lawyer Sergey Belyak reported to Interfax on Wednesday.

In his words, the statements of these people addressed to Zhirinovskiy "touching upon his honor and dignity and inflicting moral damage" are the major reason for these claims. In particular, during the pre-election campaign Gaydar compared Zhirinovskiy with Adolf Hitler. In addition, there were assertions that Zhirinovskiy "is an agent of special forces and the work of the KGB."

As Belyak reported, the greatest sum, totaling 500 Mn [million] rubles is requested from Yegor Gaydar. According to Belyak, Zhirinovskiy explains this by the fact that "such statements made many electors "afraid of his candidacy." The rest are proposed to pay 300 Mn rubles each. In addition, the newspaper KURANTY which published several statement which allegedly belonged to Zhirinovskiy was being sued for 100 Mn rubles.

In his conversation with our Interfax correspondent Belyak inidicated that "such great sums" are explained "by the infectiousness of a bad example," to quote Zhirinovskiy. He pointed to Aleksandr Rutskoy who also brought claims against his political opponents. "The need of appropriate monetary funds to repair the office" is the major reason for "the moral damage's compensation" because Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin "refused to render any material aid on this issue," said Belyak.

'Union of 12 December' Changes Name

LD1304221294 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] As of today, the deputies' group The Union of 12 December has lengthened its name and become the Liberal-Democratic Union [Liberalno-Demokraticheskiy Soyuz]. Explaining this decision, Boris Fedorov, the leader of the union, told our correspondent: We are liberal and we are democrats. We have simply taken a long time to see who we are in the political spectrum. Many options were discussed, and we decided that this one is the most appropriate. Incidentally, the Russia's Choice had similar discussions, but they became frightened. We believe that if we are liberal democrats, we should not hide it. All we are doing is returning the true meaning to the title of liberal democrats.

'National Assembly' To Form Single Opposition Bloc

LD1304163294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1356 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] "The crisis in the Russian economy and society has reached its apogee and the country is approaching a period of instability," leader of the Russian National Assembly Aleksandr Sterligov declared at a press conference on Wednesday in Moscow.

In his opinion, "one cannot rule out social cataclysms in the near future." Under this situation, Sterligov indicated, the RNC deems it possible to create a Russian Power Union bloc as an association of the opposition "which could participate in the presidential elections if they take place." In his words, in the near future the RNC intends to create "a national council—a kind of council of the Elders—which would proceed with the consultations with different opposition forces to coordinate their positions and to form a single bloc." "We addressed Varennikov, Achalov, and Starodubtsev with a proposal to form such a council," said Sterligov.

As he said, "one should agree to the president's idea on national accord, however, this accord cannot be reached as a result of adopting one act." "Public recognition of serious mistakes on the part of the president and his circles and their resignation could be a step on the way to national accord in society," stressed Sterligov.

He indicated that "for their part, the opposition forces could publicly take pledges to ensure stability in society and to rule out any political persecutions." "Russia must reject the present system of elections which has recognized its bankruptcy and start formation of a power structure at a 'Zemstvo Assembly'," declared Sterligov.

As he said, "the first 'Zemstvo Assembly' should be convened in 1996 instead of elections scheduled for this time." Sterligov pointed out that delegations of Russia's territories and regions representing different strata of the population would be able to elect new power structures and, probably, abolish the institute of the presidency.

Pickets Burn Flag Outside U.S. Embassy

LD1304193594 Moscow NTV in Russian 1800 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Today, passions raged outside the U.S. embassy in Moscow. Members of the Liberal Democratic Party and other citizens picketed the embassy to protest against NATO's bombing in Bosnia. Red and St. Andrew's flags fluttered over the crowd, while the U.S. flag was torn up by the pickets, and despite attempts by the militia to save the United States' national symbol, the remnants were burnt. Previously, there had already been demonstrative burnings outside the embassy. On Tuesday, a $1 bill was the victim of fire.

The POSTFACTUM agency has reported new information about today's protest. According to it, the law and order bodies arrested (Zhukov), a representative of the Russian-Serbian Friendship Society; and (Kosinov), the first deputy chairman of the Russian National Assembly, was beaten up.

Deputies Deliver Protest

LD1404075094 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0530 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Dissatisfied with the mild statement of the State Duma on the situation in Bosnia, approximately 20 radically inclined deputies—Aleksandr Nevzorov, Anatoliy Lukyanov from the Russian Way group, Vyacheslav Marychev of the Liberal Democratic Party, and others—decided to hand in their own appeal to the U.S. ambassador in Russia on Wednesday evening. Expressed in it is, and I am quoting: profound indignation at the barbaric bombing by NATO aircraft approved by President Bill Clinton. The statement also contains the demand, and I am quoting again, that: The illegal operation be investigated immediately and NATO troops be withdrawn at once from the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

'Plans' To Cut TV Broadcasting to 20 Percent

LD1304192094 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 13 Apr 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Now about the television air time situation. The Russian Finance Ministry, in the person of Acting Minister Sergey Dubinin, and the Communications Ministry, in the person of Vladimir Bulgak, are forming an interesting alliance. These two official representatives of the Cabinet of Ministers are considering reducing the amount of television broadcasting to 20 percent. Does this mean that our blue screens will be mostly silent?

What is interesting is that Western television companies from time to time tell us that they are being offered spare air time. In general, it is not too hard to guess where the remaining spare air time will go and who will be offering it. It remains for us to rely on the common sense of the

Russian president and prime minister, who should understand that deprived of television, they will lose control of the country.

Economic Issues

Fuel Reserves at 'Critical Level'

LD1304220594 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2020 GMT 13 Apr 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The management of Russia's unified power grid has proclaimed a state of emergency in the industry. For the first time ever, fuel reserves have dropped to a critical level that poses a real threat of whole regions being cut off from the power supply. In order to bring the situation back to normal, the power engineers have asked consumers to repay their debts and the government to grant the industry credits on preferential terms.

Bank Currency Chief Urges Tougher Controls

PM1404114794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Apr 94 First Edition p 3

[Interview with Viktor Melnikov, head of the Central Bank of Russia's Main Administration for Currency Regulation, by Vladimir Kucherenko; date, place not given: "'Fantastic' Deposits in the Land of Fools. What Is Behind Promises of Fantastic Interest Rates"]

[Text] We are literally hypnotized by the advertising of various banks and firms. They attract our money by promising staggering interest rates of 40, 50, and 60 percent in hard currency—no Western banker can promise that! We spoke about this to Viktor Melnikov, head of the Central Bank of Russia's [CBR] Main Administration for Currency Regulation.

[Melnikov] I think that you can obtain megahigh profit ratios in Russia by using money in deals that go beyond the confines of banking legislation. In particular, this may involve trading operations via dummy firms. This is an extremely risky business: You can either become fabulously rich or lose everything. Reputable banks that top the ratings do not do this, nor do they promise investors crazy profits.

[Kucherenko] However, everyone is now complaining that it is not profitable to export from the country: Prices in Russia are close to world levels. What is the reason for these interest rates then?

[Melnikov] You cannot even imagine how many organizations have now won the right not to pay taxes and to export goods dutyfree. Control over the use of these concessions is, moreover, extremely lax. It is generally public or charitable structures that are the fortunate ones. And we do not know whether this trade benefits the disabled, for instance, or whether it is an overused cover for commercial enterprises which can quite easily make high profits if they do not pay duty and tax. [Melnikov ends]

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA File: The presidential administration's Control Administration noted 20 January that the government does not have information about how export quotas and concessions granted to organizations and enterprises are used. A curious example was cited. The Moscow Branch of the Children's Foundation gave its concessions to the "Silk Route" firm to conclude a purchase deal—in return for 1 percent commission.

[Kucherenko] There is the opinion that it was not the banks but structures involved in financial operations without banking licenses that started the race to see "who could provide the higher interest rate." GMM and Tibet, for instance. In the opinion of CBR Deputy Chairman D. Tulin, these structures operate on the principle of the "pyramid game": They pay stupendous interest rates on hard-currency deposits by attracting more and more money from the gullible.

[Melnikov] There is regrettably a naive belief in miracles in our society, the belief that you can bury five gold coins in a field and get 100 times that amount in the morning. As long as there is a social breeding ground for all manner of "miracle workers," there will always be a handful of smart operators ready to offer the means to fabulous wealth. But all these "miracle workers" mainly operate with the far from rich ordinary population. The banks on the other hand prefer their clients to be a little more sound. Everything will evidently change when the inflated structures burst and a load of people lose their money irretrievably.

[Kucherenko] But people should not be educated at such a terrible price! There is the Law "On Currency Regulation," which prohibits involvement in currency operations without licenses.

[Melnikov] The point is that our laws are still extremely lax and imperfect. Britain's banking legislation for instance fills over 70 volumes and regulates literally every move that bankers make. Everything has been done to protect the client against fraud. If you try that here you immediately get a reputation for opposing the free market economy and supporting administrative-edict methods.

You say that licenses are needed. The Law on Currency Regulation mainly acts as a framework, countless instructions are needed for it. We have managed to write a whole series of them, each one taking five to six months.

[Kucherenko] But can charges not be filed against a particular company for its advertising? Is it not a fact that the procedure for conducting currency operations is being breached?

[Melnikov] We have no legal documents pertaining to advertising, and whole pages of newspapers are crammed full of illegal announcements. For instance: "I am opening offshore companies on the Cayman Islands without a CBR license." That is a typical breach of procedure, commonplace smuggling of capital offshore in order to evade taxation. But we only have to resort to the courts and they will demand that an operational investigation be conducted: Do prove to us, with documents and other material evidence, that this firm has opened offshore offices for this or that client. We do not have the resources for that.

Take GMM, which moves depositors' money without a license, i.e. is engaged in illegal actions. In this situation I think that law-enforcement bodies, primarily the prosecutor's office, should put a halt to the activity of a transgressor regardless of the latter's jurisdiction. GMM is a Dutch firm, but it is operating on our market and violating our laws.

[Kucherenko] What about Tibet, is it a foreign resident?

[Melnikov] We cannot do the work of the tax police! God willing, by the end of the year we will somehow have to write instructions regarding the Law on Currency Regulation. A tremendous amount of work is needed to give Russia a statutory banking base. Today a situation reigns in financial affairs that makes foreigners despair. Unlike our country, in the United States you cannot put more than $10,000 in an account without providing documentary confirmation that this money has been earned legally.

Actual financial control in the Russian Federation is divided between the Finance Ministry's Auditing Administration, ourselves, the tax police, the Federal Service for Currency-Export Controls, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs. It is hard to coordinate the work. Many structures are still only just being formed and, organizationally, are extremely weak. Yet banking, tax, and currency legislation are simultaneously being violated at every turn. It would be sensible to look at the experience of the Italians, who, afflicted as they are by the mafia and corruption, have combined all control and financial organs in the Guardia di Finanza. Were we to set up something of the sort based on the tax police, for instance, many establishments would inevitably fall within this structure's purview.

But we are doing something even now. We recently checked the work of currency exchange points in Moscow. Abuses were discovered at one bank ("Stayl"—author's note). And the CBR suspended its license for hard currency transactions.

Ex-Finance Minister Fedorov on Central Bank

PM1404091794 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 13 Apr 94 p 2

[Interview with Ex-Finance Minister Boris Fedorov by Yelena Levina; date and place not stated: "Boris Fedorov Believes Dollar Will Be Worth 10,000 Rubles"]

[Text] [Levina] Boris Grigoryevich, after some spasmodic leaps, the rate of exchange for the dollar has risen quite smoothly. Last year, your forecasts turned out to be by far the closest to what actually happened. How do you evaluate the prospects for and the situation with the regulation of the rate of exchange by the Central Bank today?

[Fedorov] I think the rate of exchange would now be, maybe, 3,000 rubles [R] to the dollar but for attempts to restrain it. But the reserves for restraint are almost exhausted. If we get the $1.5 billion from the West on which the talks with [International Monetary Fund Managing Director] M. Camdessus centered, then, of course, they will be thrown onto the market. And this will retard the process further. But I am sticking to the forecast I made in December: It is perfectly feasible that the exchange rate may be R10,000 to the dollar by the end of the year.

By restraining the exchange rate the Central Bank has, so to speak, gone against its own nature. Now it is even letting the premier down in some respects. Because a certain amount of credit, for instance, has been held back deliberately. In reality, there are between 2 and 3 trillion in liquid money on the market, and if you reduce the volume of credit issued, then this is sufficient to affect the rate of exchange. But any forecasts are made on the assumption that the Central Bank and the government will not fix the rate.

[Levina] Do you consider this realistic?

[Fedorov] I think it is doubtful, because this would be a blatant deviation from market principles. But now, as you can see, those in the upper echelons are trying with all their might to show that the reforms are continuing, and that there will be no deviation. And as soon as they fix prices, the exchange rate, or drastically cut, say, interest rates, or remove something or other from commercial banks, it will be impossible to preserve the image of reformers. But nevertheless, Chernomyrdin is somehow trying to maneuver between two rockfaces: nodding approval to one side, and not moving too far away from those on the other. But, as we know, a person cannot be in two places at once....

[Levina] And what can be said about the crux of the question on the liquidation of commercial banks?

[Fedorov] Ultimately, roughly one-half of all banks will disappear or merge with others, and this is a fact. After all, even today many major banks survive only at the expense of state funds. A huge quantity of preferential credits and subsidies is released via commercial banks, and this keeps them afloat. A whole series of very well-known banks are actually giants with feet of clay—and these are banks which are particularly friendly with the Central Bank.

But those on less friendly terms with the Central Bank are far stronger, because they have drummed up real business, they have a genuine clientele, stable resource sources.

Take, for instance, the "Stolichnyy" Bank—it is fiercely unpopular with the Central Bank. The "Stolichnyy" managers may or may not be likable, but the fact is that this bank will not go under because it is engaged in specific financial business.

And there are other banks which deal in specific business and have their own reliable sources. But those banks—even very respectable and famous ones—with a balance sheet showing between 75 and 80 percent centralized resources will be the first to go under because they are not competitive. This even concerns certain banks in, say, the oil and gas industry. But, I hear you cry, this is where all the state money and resources are, surely? But I get the feeling that some of them are breathing their last. While oil workers had a lot of money—they prospered. But when the need arises to do business, to seek out depositors—then they are weak.

[Levina] Right now, at a time when the discussion of the budget is under way, everybody is concerned by one question: Will the same type of monstrous inflation witnessed last year continue in 1994? Why are such diverse figures cited on this score in official documents?

[Fedorov] When a situation emerges whereby on virtually the very same day the president says inflation will be between 3 and 5 percent by the end of the year and the premier says it will be between 7 and 9 percent (while at the same time naming percentages of 10, 14, and 15 in various speeches), this means that they have lost their bearings and there is no clear policy.

In principle, were we to set ourselves a limit of 3 percent, this could be done without any problems. This does not require any new discoveries, and no IMF will ever tell us anything new, no matter who's in charge there. Everything the IMF knows, we know ourselves.

[Levina] So what is the problem?

[Fedorov] This is a question of political will, and that alone. It is quite possible to stop the printing presses for a month. But this is painful. Likewise, it is perfectly feasible to cease emissions for six months. It is essential to look at which expenditure is inefficient. A great deal of it! And I have repeatedly suggested halting the issue of government decrees such as, for instance, the one on setting up an organizing committee to mark the 300th anniversary of a small boat belonging to Peter the Great. There is no need to spend millions on this nowadays!

But there are dozens of these decrees. They represent the whim of useless administrative bodies. From government bodies downward. Why are there so many departments? Or what does the so-called center for information science policy under the government do? Of the 1,000 people making up the government apparatus, I believe that 700 could be pruned. And why are there 10 telephones on every bureaucrat's desk? You know, this means at least five types of specialist communications facilities. What for? There is a very great deal of unnecessary expenditure in our country. Resources are squandered with frightening gusto.

In the last six months I have made repeated representations to Chernomyrdin to tear apart the expenditure base of the budget with an iron hand, and I brought him a list of 60 senseless decrees which ought to be abolished in view of the huge and unnecessary expenditure entailed by them. He referred them repeatedly to the government for examination, and discussions were organized. On several occasions the premier even took up a pen to sign something, but was then unable to do it. As a result, everything boiled down to the suspension of just one law on land, which was highly offensive and "cost" 100 trillion....

[Levina] Tell me, how are planned volumes of emissions determined in practice?

[Fedorov] There is a very specific correlation: The percentage growth of emissions in the next quarter must be lower than the rate of inflation in the previous quarter. Now, however, we are officially preparing for the second quarter with a growth in emissions which is not lower but higher than previous-quarter inflation. That is, the spiral is twisting toward even greater inflation....

[Levina] Why?

[Fedorov] There are solid lobby interests in parliament. Each group is fighting to increase expenditure on a particular budget item.

And for some reason, nobody senses that by increasing the deficit you are making the country's position worse.

[Levina] Does the Central Bank have too few powers?

[Fedorov] On the contrary. In our country the Central Bank even has somewhat more powers than should really be available to any normal Central Bank. It deals with payment transactions and sundry other things, and if it were to be given the chance to offer credits directly too—well, then there would be a lot of very happy people there. The oversight of banks is their favorite job. Because the psychology of old State Bank staffers—to engage in small, specific matters—is irrepressible.

[Levina] What, in your view, should the Central Bank be doing in principle?

[Fedorov] In any country the department of the Central Bank involves itself in two things: First, economic analysis, on the basis of which it gives the center a signal to rectify monetary and credit policy. Second, cash in hand. In some places the oversight function also exists. But this differs from country to country. But just you try to ask the following question of a Central Bank representative in any region of our country: "How do you analyze the economic situation in the region?"

And he will immediately begin to complain to you about the sowing campaign, the railroads, the problems besetting enterprises, and that his ceiling is low and credits cannot be issued. And then it becomes clear: That is not what I would call a Central Bank.

But without this, without the precisely and intelligently calculated guidelines and a firm political will to reduce the budget deficit, inflation and impoverishment cannot be halted.

Major Gas Company To Float Capital

LD1404081694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0740 GMT 14 Apr 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Belyayev]

[Text] Moscow April 14 TASS—Following prolonged discussions, the State Property Committee established procedure and time (April) for selling shares of a Russian joint stock society, Gazprom. The committee announced the number of shares to be sold—28.7 per cent from the authorised capital totalling 236.7 billion roubles.

The state seeks not to release Gazprom from its hold at the first stage of privatisation and retains 40 per cent of shares for three years. The society has already sold 15 per cent of stocks to gas industry workers according to a closed subscription: they were purchased by nearly 270,000 people.

It is necessary now to sell the largest block of shares which will be sold at 60 regional auctions. Each auction will sell blocks of shares, the size of which will be proportionate to the value of the industry's fixed assets on a given territory. There is another distinguishing feature of auctions. Their participants will consist of physical persons having permanent residence registration on a given territory.

Tyumen region residents will buy the greatest number of Gazprom stocks: 17 million shares worth 1,000 roubles each. This is 7.15 per cent from the authorised capital. Another 5.7 per cent of stocks will be floated in the Yamal-Nenets national area. The labour and shares floating division of the Gazprom society compiled a map of a kind: a list of regions indicating the value of Gazprom fixed assets on their territories.

The Orenburg region with its gas fields and gas-processing amalgamations trails the Sverdlovsk and Perm regions as to the value of fixed assets. This is despite the fact that gas is not produced there. The last cities on the list are Moscow and St. Petersburg consuming the greatest quantities of gas but having no production facilities of the society on their territories.

Military & Nuclear Issues

Atomic Ministry Denies Having Neutron Bomb

LD1404122494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1043 GMT 14 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Marina Barinova]

[Text] Moscow April 14 TASS—"There is no such compound as 'red mercury' in nature, it is not used in the ministry's atomic energy enterprises, and is not used in the construction of nuclear weapons", ITAR-TASS was told on Thursday by Georgiy Kaurov, head of the public relations department of the Russian Atomic Ministry.

He said that scientists and specialists from the Atomic Ministry had already made similar statements many times. Apparently, it would not hurt to make one more: Russia does carry out research in the field of thermonuclear synthesis of heavy hydrogen isotopes, however, such research has absolutely nothing in common with "red mercury".

Kaurov announced that in the ministry's opinion, Wednesday's report by the REUTER news agency that Russia has a "miniature neutron bomb", developed by Russian scientists on the basis of "red mercury", and the English television film about the "Russians' discovery" are cheap efforts to create a sensation and have political undertones.

Commentary on Biological Weapons Charges

LD1204193994 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1710 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Last month, the British SUNDAY TIMES came up with allegations that Russia is developing biological weapons. The Russian Defense Ministry has strongly denied the allegations. Nevertheless, THE WASHINGTON POST has issued the same statement again recently. Vladislav Kozyakov comments:

What is surprising is that the authors of the publications about a biological weapons program allegedly under way in Russia refer to the White House, sources which in their turn quote statements by some anonymous defectors from Russia. And, moreover, the authors contradict each other. For one, an anonymous author says in THE WASHINGTON POST that he has got all the necessary evidence that the program exists, while another author states in the same newspaper that there is no evidence to prove the charges and therefore it can be only non-military equipment that should be dismantled as well.

Hence, a question arises—what are the reasons for spreading such unfounded accusations concerning the Russian policy in the American mass media, with reference to the administration's officials? An agreement is in effect between Russia, the United States, and Britain on mutual visits to biological facilities of the three countries. Russian experts visited several facilities of the kind in the United States in February-March this year. British

and American experts carried out similar inspections in Russia in 1992, last October, and last January. They were allowed to visit any laboratories and talk with employees and take pictures as well. And Western experts revealed no claims as to the observance of the 1972 convention banning biological weapons.

As for visiting American biological facilities, Russian experts faced serious obstacles. For one, they were not allowed into a number of laboratories and one building of a former plant of the Pasar firm, producing biological weapons. Certain restrictions were posed on them to take pictures and they were also denied to make biological tests. One of the facilities was opened for inspection only after the Russian Embassy interfered. Besides, experts from Russia found out that the Pasar firm not only preserved but was modernizing the equipment designed earlier to produce biological warfare formulas. Information to that effect has been published in the Moscow-based newspaper IZVESTIYA.

Apparently there is only one way to provide strict observance of the 1972 convention banning biological weapons. The sides should work out a more effective control mechanism over the convention's implementation. Russia, for its part, intends to help promote the idea at the forthcoming session of the preparatory committee dealing with the control measures to observe the convention. Will the Western countries be ready for a stricter control system?

'Unique' Missile Control System in Mirny

LD1304164294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1456 GMT 13 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Mirny, Arkhangelsk region April 13 TASS—The setting up of a unique system of control for missile flights at the command post of the range has been completed, ITAR-TASS was told by General Nikolay Yudin, chief of staff of the state range of strategic rocket forces in the Arkhangelsk region.

He said the range has become a major scientific center in Russia. Officers manning the command post are candidates of technical sciences. A computer system for flight control has been created at the initiative of one of them, Lieutenant-Colonel Yashchenko.

From 1992 the range has been serving the task of insurance and monitoring of the observance of treaty-governed obligations between Russia and the United States for the exchange of telemetric information on missile launchings, General Yudin said. The Russian Strategic Rocket Forces now have at their disposal a unique and Russia's only experimental base for testing all kinds of missiles, for processing and analysys of the information strictly in accordance with the treaty on strategic offensive arms.

As is known, a large group of journalists arrived at the secret garrison in Mirny on April 11. The journalists were given an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the latest equipment, specifically with the pilot sample of the missile complex Topol which will be adopted for service in several years. The arrival of journalists coincided with the celebration of Cosmonautics Day. It is broadly celebrated in Mirny as much has been done here for space exploration. "We keep no secrets from the Russian and world public, but our openness does not lower our sense of responsibility for Russia's security. Russia can be confident on its security," General Yuriy Zhuravlev, chief of the range, told repoters.

Warplanes, Aviation Units To Be Cut

LD1304202494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1744 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Russian Air Force Commander General Petr Deinekin announced that in 1994, the number of war planes is to be cut by one third. He told Interfax on Wednesday that cuts would made by disbanding Russian aviation units located in the former Soviet republics. He also stated that despite the cuts, the Russian Air Forces' combat efficiency would be retained by equipping them with modern planes of the fourth generation. He also noted that the Defense Ministry would no longer use obsolete planes, whose service life has expired.

Moscow 'Indifferent' to Pacific Fleet Appeals

OW1404072194 Vladivostok Radiostantsiya Tikhiy Okean Maritime Network in Russian 0715 GMT 8 Apr 94

[From the "Pacific Ocean" Program]

[Text] Bureaucrats of the Russian Government apparatus have condemned the Pacific Fleet servicemen to a famished existence. The debt of the Russian Armed Forces for the supply of food products alone amounts to 60 billion rubles. Nevertheless, the financial administration of the Russian Defense Ministry continues to hold a defensive position, and shrugs off the numerous appeals—from the Pacific Fleet among others—for payments for provisions delivered on credit. According to a report of the Pacific Fleet press service, the fleet command wasted a mountain of paper sending requests for financing of military units to obtain the barest necessities. However, both the Russian Government and the Ministry of Defense remain indifferent to these requests.

Federal Assembly

Duma Denounces NATO Actions in Bosnia

LD1304155294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1524 GMT 13 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow April 13 TASS—"The State Duma denounces NATO's unilateral coercive actions in Bosnia-Herzegovina," a statement adopted by the State Duma, the lower house of Russia's new parliament, on Wednesday said. The statement said that Russian parliamentarians "demand immediate convocation of the U.N. Security Council to discuss the situation, following NATO's military interference in the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina and adoption of measures to prevent escalation of this explosive situation."

Deputies called on all warring sides to immediately end the bloodshed and start negotiations on a comprehensive ceasefire agreement.

The statement stressed the need for urgent deployment of U.N. forces in the Gorazde area and adoption of measures to prevent provocations on any side.

Duma deputies urged the Russian Foreign Ministry to "work out an active position to set up an effective mechanism of implementation of U.N. Security Council resolutions in order to ward off the use of force in the future bypassing Russia." Deputies rejected amendments to the statement proposed by several factions, including recommendations to the Russian Government, urging it to submit proposals to the Security Council to lift economic sanctions on Yugoslavia or to refrain from signing the Partnership for Peace programme.

State Duma Adopts Series of Laws

Crime Laws

LD1304174394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1037 GMT 13 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Apr—Today, the State Duma adopted in their first reading a series of laws that should facilitate a more effective struggle against crime. These were federal laws "On the state protection of judges and employees of the law enforcing and monitoring bodies," "On the state protection of victims, witnesses, and other individuals assisting in criminal proceedings," and also "on the tabling of amendments and additions to the RSFSR criminal and criminal procedure code."

According to Viktor Ilyukhin, chairman of the Duma Committee for Security, who was presenting the draft laws to the deputies, the need for a speedy adoption of these laws was brought about by the acute situation with regard to crime in the country and the fact that the existing laws dealing with the battle against crime were insufficient and consequently ineffective.

In particular, Viktor Ilyukhin noted, the adoption of the law "On the state protection of judges and employees of the law enforcing and monitoring bodies" will allow the lives, health, and property of this category of citizens and their families and friends to be protected. The Duma committee chairman also stressed that the adoption of the law "On the state protection of victims, witnesses, and other individuals assisting in criminal proceedings" will permit the safety and social protection of these citizens to be guaranteed, so that the necessary conditions for the battle against crime might be created, and justice might be appropriately done in criminal cases.

The laws were adopted in their first reading without discussion since, in the parliamentarians' opinion, society had an acute need for their speedy adoption. All remarks and additions to the above laws which Duma deputies table in the immediate future will be taken into account during consideration of the laws in their second reading.

Law on Status of Deputies

LD1304192794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1150 GMT 13 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Apr—A federal law "On the status of a Federation Council deputy and the status of a State Duma deputy of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation" was adopted today as a whole by the State Duma. This law defines the rights, obligations, and responsibility of Federation Council and State Duma deputies of the first convocation, and envisages the basic legal and social guarantees of the work of elected deputies.

The law notes, among other things, that Federation Council and State Duma deputies enjoy immunity in the course of the whole of their term of office. They cannot be subjected to criminal or administrative responsibility submitted in legal form, detained, arrested, or subjected to search or interrogation without the consent of the appropriate Federal Assembly chamber—apart from instances of their detention at the scene of a crime—or subjected to personal inspection, with the exception of instances where this is provided for by a federal law to ensure the security of other persons.

A deputy's immunity extends to his place of domicile and work, his luggage, his private and company transport, his correspondence, the means of communications for his personal use, and also documents belonging to him.

A Russian Federation Federal Assembly deputy may not be subjected to criminal and administrative proceedings for a view or a position expressed during voting, including at the time of the expiry of his term of office. This situation does not extend to instances where a deputy has made public insults or committed slander and other violations, the responsibility for which is covered by federal legislation.

Media Coverage of State Bodies

LD1304225394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1444 GMT 13 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Apr—Today the State Duma adopted the federal law "On the procedure for coverage by the state media of the activities of state power bodies" in its first reading. According to Mikhail Poltoranin, chairman of the Duma committee for information policy and communications, who presented the bill to deputies, this law regulates relations on dissemination by the state media of material and reports on the activities of Russia's state power bodies and its components and at the same time guarantees media activities are independent of state bodies.

Mikhail Poltoranin noted that the law regulates the publication of material on the activities of the Russian president, the Federal Assembly, the Russian Government and administrations, and representative bodies of Russian components.

Poltoranin stressed that the law also examines problems relating to the coverage of the activities of state power bodies by state radio and television; television and radio companies prepare material to be broadcast as part of news and news-cum-educational programs in conjunction with the press services of the federal bodies of state power. Procedures for recording and storing audio and audiovisual material are also regulated, and a list of events is specified, for which the channels of the state electronic media must give airtime. Relations between state bodies and journalists of the media editorial offices are regulated.

Federation Council Decree on Insolvency 'Crisis'

PM1304143794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Apr 94 First Edition p 4

[Decree No. 96-1 SF of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly "On the Insolvency Crisis in the Russian Federation Economy," dated Moscow, 7 April 1994 and signed by V.F. Shumeyko, chairman of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly]

[Text] Having heard and discussed information provided by Russian Federation Government Chairman V.S. Chernomyrdin, the Federation Council notes that the Russian Federation Government lacks an action program to resolve the insolvency crisis in the Russian Federation economy. The Federation Council decrees:

1. That the Russian Federation Government and the Central Bank of the Russian Federation be instructed to submit a program for resolving the insolvency crisis in the Russian Federation economy to the Russian Federation Federal Assembly by 15 April 1994, and that in order to overcome the crisis they should recognize the following as priority measures:

Unconditional implementation of the Russian Federation President's edict No. 1662 "On Improving Payments in the Economy and Increasing Liability for Timely Settlements" dated 19 October 1993;
Repayment of money owed under the Russian Federation republic budget for 1993 taking price indexation into account;
Elaboration and implementation of a system for supplementing enterprises' working capital;
Elaboration and implementation of a system for mutual offsetting of debts;
Repayment by the Russian Federation Government of debts owed to Russian enterprises by member states of the CIS;
Introduction of amendments to the existing tax system designed to stimulate material production;
Introduction of state regulation of transportation tariffs and the prices of energy resources;
Introduction of state wage regulation;
Reduction of expenditure on the upkeep of federal organs of executive power together with a transfer of some of their powers to organs of executive power of the components of the Russian Federation.

2. That the Central Bank of the Russian Federation and the organs of state power of the components of the Russian Federation be instructed to introduce a system for holding back money earmarked for wage payments in enterprises' accounts with a view to temporarily easing social tension pending the elimination of the insolvency crisis in the Russian Federation economy.

3. That the Central Bank of the Russian Federation be instructed to reduce its interest rates for loans by the Central Bank of the Russian Federation.

4. That the Federation Council Committee for the Budget, Finance, Foreign Currency, and Credit Regulation, Money Emission, Tax Policy, and Customs Regulation and the Federation Council Committee for Questions of Economic Reform, Ownership, and Property Relations, with the involvement of interested Federation Council committees and the participation of the Russian Federation Government and the Central Bank of the Russian Federation be tasked with preparing a package of draft laws on urgent measures to tackle the insolvency crisis in the Russian Federation economy.

[Signed] V.F. Shumeyko, Chairman of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly
[dated] Moscow, 7 April 1994
No. 96-1 SF

Duma Still Waiting for Yeltsin's Draft Laws

PM1304150994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Apr 94 First Edition p 2

[Ruslan Ignatyev report on interviews with State Duma First Deputy Chairman Mikhail Mityukov and State Duma Security Committee Chairman Viktor Ilyukhin; place and date of interviews not given]

[Text] At a recent meeting with representatives of the "Russia's Choice" faction, the Russian Federation president reported that he had sent 41 draft laws to the State Duma for consideration. But this drew the response that not a single draft law had been received by parliament. Where exactly are they? Your special correspondent put this question to Mikhail Mityukov, first deputy chairman of the State Duma.

[Mityukov] All we have received is a list of priority legislative acts scheduled for implementation in the first quarter of 1994. These lists were sent from both the government apparatus and the president's administration. But we have still not received the texts themselves. True, we can find three draft laws from the government on which the State Duma is working.

[Ignatyev] What do you think, where exactly are the draft laws sent by the president right now?

[Mityukov] They are in the Russian Federation president's State-Legal Administration.... [Mityukov ends]

Maybe the draft laws went to State Duma committees? The editorial office approached Security Committee Chairman Viktor Ilyukhin for an explanation.

[Ilyukhin] Of the 60 draft laws included on the list of priority legislative acts by the Russian Federation Government (letter No. 0085 p-P-36 of 4 February 1994), the State Duma has received only three draft laws. As regards the president's administration, not a single one of the 54 draft laws scheduled for consideration in parliament as of 5 April 1994 (letter No. PR-266 of 4 March 1994) has been submitted. [Ilyukhin ends]

In our quest for draft laws requiring urgent consideration we telephoned the Russian Government apparatus' department for collaboration with federal organs of representative power and public organizations. The reply we got from there was that it was impossible to give the exact number of draft laws sent to the State Duma because it receives legislative acts via various channels. Only Ruslan Orekhov, chief of the Russian Federation president's State-Legal Administration can throw some light on the situation that has developed. But owing to a lack of time he communicated via an aide that he would be not able to give the newspaper any time for several days.

...Meanwhile

The "Yuridicheskaya Literatura" Publishing House will start publishing a single collection of Russian legislative acts in the near future in accordance with the president's edict on the procedure for publishing federal laws and bringing them into force. The weekly collection will include laws, presidential edicts, and government decrees. In addition, they will also be officially published in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, Sergey Filatov reported.

Regional Affairs

'Russia's Choice' Leads in Local Elections

MK1304121094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 13 Apr 94 p 2

[Yelena Tregubova report under the "Lessons" rubric: "Officials and Directors in the Lead in Local Elections. 'Independent Candidates' Would be Obliged To Disclose Party Affiliation"]

[Text] It was announced at yesterday's sitting of the Central Electoral Commission that the elections for local organs of representative power had taken place in 69 regions of Russia. In 61 regions, they are recognized as having taken place, and in 19 regions local parliaments have already been fully formed. Elections in another 11 regions and "by-elections" for 50 organs of power in the regions are to take place before the year is out.

According to Central Electoral Commission information, 31.7 percent of the seats won belong to representatives of the executive power, 21 percent to directors of industrial enterprises, and more than 10 percent to "people prominent in agriculture." Nearly 10 percent of the seats have been won by white collar workers, journalists, etc. Lawyers have won as little as 2.5 percent of all seats.

According to Nikolay Ryabov, the "Russia's Choice" bloc is in the lead for those elected from party lists (22 percent), trailed by the Communist Party (14 percent of the votes) and the Agrarian Party (7 percent). In the overwhelming majority of Federation components, however, deputies were elected in accordance with the majority system. According to officials of the Central Electoral Commission, "as little as 14 percent of candidates were nominated by electoral blocs, even fewer were registered, and still fewer were elected." Nikolay Ryabov did not deny media information that Communists posing as "independent candidates" were in the lead among the remaining 80 to 85 percent of the candidates. "In fact, when they describe themselves as independent, it is often hard for the voters to see who they really are," the Electoral Commission chairman complained in an interview for your SEGODNYA correspondent. He advised that the draft law "On the Fundamental Guarantees of Voting Rights of Russian Federation Citizens" contains a provision making it mandatory for all candidates to indicate their party affiliation "so as the voters will have no doubt."

The draft law, constituting "framework" norms for regional election statutes, will soon be submitted to Boris Yeltsin and forwarded to the Public Chamber under the president. Next, Mr. Ryabov hopes, the president will introduce a corresponding "legislative initiative" to the State Duma, and the lower chamber would look at it before its summer recess.

Russia's Choice on Goals in Maritime Kray

944F0561B Vladivostok KRASNOYE ZNAMYA in Russian 9 Apr 94 p 2

[Interview with Ilya Grinchenko, chairman of the kray organizational committee of the Russia's Choice Movement, by Vitaliy Mogil; place and date not given: "Orientation Points of the New Party: Maritime Kray Gaydar Supporters Plan To Defend Civic Peace and the Interests of the Residents of the Kray"]

[Text] A long time ago journalists used to "pester" the leader of Russia's Choice, Ye. Gaydar, with the question: Are you not planning to transform this bloc of yours into a party? Yegor Timurovich never ruled out such a possibility. And so, it has happened—Russia's Choice will create a party. Supporters were found for it here in Maritime Kray. Our KRASNOYE ZNAMYA correspondent met with Ilya Grinchenko, chairman of the kray organizational committee of the Russia's Choice Movement.

[Mogil] Ilya Konstantinovich, the political announcement on the creation of a party, which was published in ARGUMENTY I FAKTY and signed by its leaders, states that the party is being created as a counterweight to the threat of a nomenklatura revanche and the accession to power of national-extremists. Does such a threat also exist in Maritime Kray?

[Grinchenko] Maritime Kray is still not a separate republic. But in Russia such a danger is viewed as obvious, and this means that our kray is also not secure from it. But even this is not the main reason for the creation of a party. Russia's Choice will fight not against, but for. For a free society where human rights are the highest priority, for stability, for an effective state, and for civic peace.

[Mogil] The establishment of civic peace and the creation of a free society, it must be assumed, are a program maximum. But the minimum?

[Grinchenko] For Maritime Kray supporters of People's Choice, this is a struggle for authority in all representative organs in order to defend the interests of the residents of our kray.

[Mogil] Can we also expect your candidates in the forthcoming elections to the kray Duma?

[Grinchenko] We have supporters among already nominated candidates for deputy. But if the Statute on Elections is revised and the opportunity appears to nominate new candidates, then we will do this.

[Mogil] Who was the initiator for the creation of the party in Maritime Kray?

[Grinchenko] The slogans under which the new party is being created found support among members of the Democrat Club—people of a different political orientation. Among them are social-democrats, supporters of the Russia's Choice Movement, and people with no party affiliation.

[Mogil] Will they all now become Gaydarites?

[Grinchenko] The party has not yet been formed structurally. Its constituent assembly is planned for the end of May. Until that time it will be necessary to consider the draft charter and a political statement. After the congress, party supporters will be able to formulate their attitude toward the documents developed by it at constituent meetings in the localities. Moreover, participation in the activity of the Russia's Choice Movement is not limited to party membership.

[Mogil] The party has just been formed, but it has already actively joined the political life of the kray...

[Grinchenko] Yes. On behalf of the kray organizational conference of the Russia's Choice Movement, an appeal has been sent to the governor of Maritime Kray with a proposal to form a kray public chamber (as a consultative representational organ under the kray administration) consisting of registered candidates for deputy for the period before the election of the kray Duma. We think that this could become the first step in the establishment of civic peace and accord in Maritime Kray, and we declare our readiness to render support in the implementation of our proposal.

Maritime Kray Finds Funds for Elections

944F0561A Vladivostok KRASNOYE ZNAMYA in Russian 9 Apr 94 p 2

[Article by Vitaliy Mogil: There Is Money. We Await the Elections"]

[Text] In order to report on the trip to the Central Election Commission in Moscow and answer questions that had accumulated during their absence, Chairman of the Kray Election Commission S. Knyazev and Ye. Khrustalev assembled journalists in the White House the day before yesterday.

It appears from what they said that the decision of the governor of the kray concerning delaying the elections to the kray Duma until autumn made sense to the Central Election Commission. They also did not fail to pay attention to the financial needs of Maritime Kray regarding the conduct of elections. The necessary amount of money was released. Thus, the kray election commission was able to return half a billion rubles [R] to the kray budget, from where the money was borrowed to finance the initial stages of the election campaign, and which the governor also promised to release for social programs.

S. Knyazev dispelled the concerns of journalists about the safekeeping of the money allocated for the elections postponed until autumn. But so that the millions will be

safer, he will probably even cancel a trip to Moscow, where on 20 April the Supreme Court plans to examine an appeal filed by Messrs Gilgenberg, Kandarakov, and Isayev concerning the, in their opinion, improper cutting up of electoral districts. According to the law, the complaint can be examined even in the absence of representatives of the kray election commission.

As for the Supreme Court finding on the essence of the complaint, the delay of the elections to a later date only contributes to objectivity. In the words of S. Knyazev, such a subjective factor as an already elected kray Duma would complicate the work of justice.

Mentioning that we all walk under God, the visitors explained the situation regarding the candidates for deputy who are already registered. This is how matters stand: If 55 days before the scheduled date of the elections there are less than two candidates for deputy in any electoral district for any reason whatsoever, a prenomination mandatory collection of signatures will be held as before.

It was decided not to change the composition of the kray and district election commissions. They will continue their work.

Nemtsov Views Nizhniy Novgorod Reform Plan

OW1404091694 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel and Orbita Networks in Russian 1845 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Studio interview with Boris Yefimovich Nemtsov, governor of Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast and Federation Council deputy, by Inna Yermilova; from the "Utro" program—live]

[Text] [Yermilova] I am very happy to introduce Boris Yefimovich Nemtsov, governor of Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast and deputy of the Federation Council, who is the guest of our program today. We know that for the past year and a half, you have been preparing a decree on land reform in Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast, and today I would like to find out what this program represents, what progress has been made in general, and what the prospects are?

[Nemtsov] Yes indeed. Last spring we began working on a program for reorganizing the kolkhozes and sovkhozes in Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast. So we worked on it for a year and finally the work was completed, and during the Prime Minister's visit to Nizhniy Novgorod we demonstrated the program's potential. After that, on 10 March, the Prime Minister declared that on the basis of this work, an overall national program of land reform could be announced within 10 days. This was a very big honor for us, the people of Nizhniy Novgorod...

[Yermilova, interrupts] In other words, it was convincing.

[Nemtsov] As far as I know, the Prime Minister was very pleased with it and the fact that a draft Government decree has been drawn up—I hope it will be signed in the next few days—speaks for itself. Viktor Stepanovich [Chernomyrdin] did what he promised, although he was 10 days late. But that is not important. But I would like to...

[Yermilova, interrupts] Well, I wish you success and hope the decree will be signed as soon as possible.

[Nemtsov] The most important thing is for Viktor Stepanovich to sign it. In fact the program looks fairly straight forward, and I would simply like to outline its basic principles. The most important principle, in our view, is that the peasants themselves should choose how to work, whether to work separately as farmers, in cooperatives, or in joint stock associations. This is their problem. We as bureaucrats should not interfere with this. On the basis of this principle we proposed the following scheme: Every peasant, including pensioners, who worked in an agricultural establishment [khozyaystvo] will receive a certificate like this...

[Yermilova interrupts] Let us show it. [holds up certificate].

[Nemtsov] It is a certificate of entitlement to a portion of the land, and a similar certificate will be issued for the right to a share of the property. After receiving these certificates, the peasants have the right to do what they want with them. They can invest a certificate in a new partnership in the form of founding capital, they can sell it, they can bequeath it, or give it away as a gift. So what happens in practice is that leaders, whom you can always find in an agricultural establishment, organize powerful partnerships around themselves, while babushkas who relinquish their certificates receive certain advantages. For instance, they may request a daily delivery of three liters of milk in exchange for their certificates.

[Yermilova] This really happens?

[Nemtsov] Yes it does. An agreement on the delivery of milk, or possibly the repair of a roof, or deliveries of wood is drawn up.

[Yermilova] But who will do this, surely this would require a large team of people who would do nothing else?

[Nemtsov] No, this will not be their only job, first of all they will...

[Yermilova interrupts] But who will deliver the milk?

[Nemtsov] A new partnership which will be engaged in milk production will take care of this. After the partnership has been formed, its leader will submit a request to the privatization commission asking it to consider the possibility of purchasing the given portion of land and the property, such as a tractor, warehouse, and so forth. Now the question of who gets what is solved in a rather interesting way. If, for instance, two partnerships or two

individuals aspire to the same piece of land, then an auction is held. Besides, payment is made with these certificates—not money, not dollars, only these certificates. The one who gives the greatest number of certificates for the land will get it. The same will be done with property. For instance, if there are several prospective clients for a tractor, it will go to the one who provides the most certificates.

[Yermilova] So the idea is that citizens should give up their certificates to those whom they trust—those who know how to work and love working on the land.

[Nemtsov] What we have in mind is that citizens will determine for themselves what they will do with their certificates. Experience has shown that they will give them to the most promising people who will be able to organize the work, who as owners of this land and property will be capable of working efficiently and making profits, thereby fulfilling their obligations to, say, the babushkas, right?

[Yermilova] Yes.

[Nemtsov] Now we already have this kind of experience, and in fact, one agricultural establishment, the Pravdinskoye establishment in Balakhninskiy Rayon, has been reorganized and nine establishments have appeared in its place—two farming partnerships that produce milk, maintenance workshops, and so forth. Besides, there were no rows and no fighting as usually happens when people argue about who gets what. None of that occurred because everything was done in an open and honest way. So the main principle, the freedom of choice, was adhered to. It is a principle which never existed in old Russia when the land issue was being worked out.

[Yermilova] Even in the time of Stolypin?

[Nemtsov] Yes, even in the time of Stolypin, because Stolypin sometimes broke up communes by force and people simply left for (?remote regions). They were coerced. In fact, the Stolypin reform was carried out by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Stolypin was the minister of internal affairs at one time. Of course, he was also the governor of Saratov, but when he was the governor, he was not involved in any reforms. He only took on the reforms when he became a big boss in St. Petersburg.

[Yermilova] Boris Yefimovich, how do the people in Nizhniy Novgorod themselves view this idea? Have you made any kind of analysis of this issue?

[Nemtsov] You know, we are carrying out our enormous preparatory work with people. For instance, very many people have no idea what to do with their certificates. So babushkas are putting them under their pillows, and until things have been explained to them...

[Yermilova interrupts] And they wait for some special moment.

[Nemtsov] They are either waiting for some moment or for an explanation about what they can do with them. When they learn about their unusual opportunities, they promptly become the major supporters of reforms. So the polls which we held in agricultural establishments showed that most people support this idea and consider it to be most constructive.

[Yermilova] I think the idea is simply grand.

[Nemtsov] It is particularly supported by two categories of people: first of all the pensioners who have nothing—all of a sudden they have an opportunity to acquire something. The second rather surprising circumstance is that the idea of reorganization is supported by leaders. You often hear: Those red kolkhozniks, those kolkhoz chairmen ruin everything. Nothing of the sort. It turns out that they are the greatest supporters of this idea because they are tired of forcing drunkards and idlers to work. Secondly, because they are sick and tired of everyone being judged equally, and thirdly, because they want to see a return on the work that they have undertaken so that they can exist in a normal way—so that they can live on their earnings, spending as much as they have earned.

So the leader is interested in these reforms because they rid him of drunks and idlers. For instance, if an alcoholic comes to him and says he wants to work in his agricultural establishment, the chairman can say: You know, dear fellow, no thanks, go find work somewhere else. I will not employ you. Or: I will take you, but only on the condition that I can fire you at any moment.

[Yermilova interrupts] In other words: You have a choice, quit drinking and start working.

[Nemtsov] Yes, stop drinking and start working. You know there is hope, which is not often mentioned, for raising discipline in production. Well, our agricultural enterprise leaders nurture this hope, and it can be realized. The most important aim of this program is to make agriculture efficient. As soon as laborers show concern, as soon as we can get rid of idlers and drunkards, people will become active and will start working. In my opinion, this is the most essential circumstance setting this program apart from all previous ones. We are not coercing people into becoming farmers. They choose for themselves. We do not tell them which method of production is the best—they can choose it themselves. Thirdly, as a result of this reorganization, we rid ourselves of a ballast which weighs us down and really impoverishes Russia.

[Yermilova] Boris Yefimovich, I have lots of questions to ask you. I would like to talk about industrial loans and about telephone loans, but we do not have the opportunity to do this today. So I would like you to promise to reappear in our program's studio again soon. Now, if I may, a short final question. You are a young, presentable, handsome, and unattached person. Does this help you or hinder you in your work?

[Nemtsov] This helps me without a doubt. I do not entirely agree with what you just said, but it helps me. At

least, I think it is highly fortunate to have the energy and opportunities to implement your ideas.

[Yermilova] Thank you. All the best and good luck with this project and decree. I hope it will be adopted soon. I would like to remind our viewers that Boris Yefimovich Nemtsov, governor of Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast and deputy of the Federation Council, was the guest of the "Utro" program. Thank you.

[Nemtsov] Thank you.

Kaliningrad Opens Mission to Federal Government

WS1404092394 Kaliningrad KALININGRADSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 5 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "Week by Week" rubric]

[Text] Administration head Yuriy Matochkin has issued a resolution on the establishment of a permanent mission of Kaliningrad Oblast to the Government of the Russian Federation in Moscow. The mission is being set up with the aim of creating conditions for operative interaction between the Kaliningrad and federal bodies of power. Anatoliy Shulgin has been appointed permanent envoy of Kaliningrad Oblast to the Government of the Russian Federation in Moscow.

'Unprecedented' Drop in Kaliningrad Birthrate

WS1404114194 Kaliningrad YANTARNIY KRAY in Russian 5 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by Y. Mishina: "This Has Never Been the Case"]

[Text] For the first time in history, 1993 saw a natural decline in the number of people in the oblast. The birthrate dropped by 13 percent, while the death rate increased by 22 percent compared with 1992. The number of births plunged to an unprecedented figure—8.9 births per 10,000 inhabitants. Meanwhile, the death ratio rose to 13 to three. According to specialists from the Committee for Employment and Social Issues at the Oblast Administration, the unfavorable changes in the residents' age that have occurred over the past few years are responsible for the declining birthrate. Another reason is the drop in the number of women of reproductive age (between 20 and 29) as a result of the demographic wave caused by World War II, as well as of the family conditions of the adult population—the larger part of those who have always been single or who are divorced. Other factors that are having an increased influence on the demographic process, in particular, on the natural population growth, are the critical economic situation, the drop in living standards, and residents' uncertainty over the future.

Amur Commission Dissolved for Rigging Results

MK1304113094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 13 Apr 94 p 3

[Yekaterina Achalova report: "Central Electoral Commission Holds Meeting. Referendum Results in Amur Oblast To Be Determined One More Time"]

[Text] It became clear after yesterday's meeting of the Central Electoral Commission that a certain revision of the December constitutional referendum results in the near future is inevitable. The meeting, which was chaired by Nikolay Ryabov, decided to dissolve the district commission in Amur Oblast for falsifying the referendum protocols.

An investigation has shown that electoral commission officials in Amur Oblast acted on a large scale. Erasures and corrections in the "For" and "Against" columns have been found in 21 protocols, and it has been established for certain that in 11 of them the results of the voting were falsified. Central Electoral Commission officials refused to tell KOMMERSANT-DAILY in which columns of the protocols the number of votes was deliberately increased or reduced. The very fact that it was passed over in silence, however, tells a lot. Having discussed the situation in Amur Oblast, the Central Electoral Commission decided to dissolve the local district commission. A new commission will be set up in its stead to count once again the number of votes cast at the referendum.

The Central Electoral Commission meeting also discussed the judicial practice of considering complaints against irregularities that occurred in the course of the Federal Assembly elections. The commission thinks in particular that the case involving Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's personal seat, which he won in the Shchelkovskiy district, was "a watershed." It should be recalled that the district court deemed the elections to be invalid, but the oblast court revoked the ruling. The Central Electoral Commission was satisfied with the outcome, because it alone can declare elections invalid. Having considered the results of regional elections, which have given administration officials one-third of regional parliament seats, the Central Electoral Commission concluded that the separation of powers is still proceeding poorly in Russia.

Radiation Effects in Chernobyl, Urals Areas

LD1304151594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1315 GMT 13 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Karlov]

[Text] Moscow April 13 TASS—"Grave indications of serious medical aftermaths, caused by the irradiation of human beings, have appeared eight years after the Chernobyl disaster," ITAR-TASS was told today by staff members of the Medical Radiology Research Centre of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences.

As many as 517 people, afflicted by radiation, were found in 58 Russian cities, including Novgorod, Izhevsk, Elista, Kurgan, Novosibirsk, Omsk, and Khabarovsk. But the Chernobyl zone of contamination remains most threatening. It embraces 17 regions of Russia with a total population of more than two millions. Some children were found to be suffering form cancer of the thyroid gland in those areas. In normal conditions there are only a few cases of this ailment per million of children. Today, the incidence of this terrible disease has increased more than 20-fold in Gomel and Bryansk regions. Specialists forecast a sharp growth of this disease in Kaluga, Tula, and Oryol regions.

But Chernobyl is not the only danger zone in Russia. The second vast area of contamination is the southern part of the Urals. Several accidents there have contaminated with strontium-90 radionuclides an area of 2,000 square kilometres, inhabited by 300,000 people. 125,000 more people were irradiated by discharges of radioactive wastes into local rivers.

The third territory is in the southern part of Siberia, contaminated by the fallout of nuclear tests on the Semipalatinsk testing ground, where 467 nuclear devices were touched off in the course of fourteen years. Loyal to their "internationalist duty", Soviet servicemen carried out nuclear bomb tests only on days when the wind was blowing from China towards Altay territory, Kemerovo, Orenburg, and Novosibirsk regions. The population of those areas is now consuming contaminated meat and milk. Due to the deteriorating economic situation, people are beginning to fish and hunt intensively in contaminated woods. They are also consuming wild mushrooms and berries, picked in contaminated forests and meadows.

New methods of measuring the "average doses" of irradiation were developed during the period that has elapsed since the Chernobyl disaster. Measuring "average" doses in populated localities is the same as measuring the "average temperature" of patients in a hospital ward. Even in populated localities, where the "average dose" is normal, there will always be people with large doses of irradiation, making up the principal risk group.

Millions of people have suffered through the fault of the state. This is why the state must fulfil its commitment to lower to the maximum the consequences of contamination. But the Finance Ministry is now planning to sharply reduce or stop the allocation of funds for the Chernobyl programme. This will accelerate the already looming extinction of the nation's gene pool.

Ingush Hostages Released

MK1404082094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Apr 94 p 1

[Natalya Pachegina report under the "In Brief" rubric: "Hostages Released"]

[Text] According to a report from Nazran, on 12 April Vladimir Lozovoy, chief of the Provisional Administration on the territory of North Ossetia and Ingushetia, who left for the site of an incident—Vladikavkaz's Promyshlennyy District (which is located outside the state of emergency area and to which the authority of the Provisional Administration chief, consequently, does not apply)—involving a motorcade from Ingushetia, was injured in a clash with an agitated mob. Neither the Provisional Administration chief's press center in Vladikavkaz nor the North Ossetian authorities have confirmed this information. [Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian on 14 April, page 14, in a Mikhail Lashch report on the incident, adds: "After Vladimir Lozovoy and his deputy, General Shapovalov, came to the site of the incident, people in the crowd who were not permitting the buses through started throwing stones at them. General Georgiy Kantemirov, North Ossetia internal affairs minister, who was present there, did not intervene in the proceedings. Mr. Lozovoy sustained a slight injury."] On the contrary, it has transpired there that a Russian military unit was blocked in Nazran. As for Ingush hostages who, according to reports from Nazran, were held by an Ossetian special purpose military unit, Vladikavkaz has said that all Ingush citizens were released by the evening of 12 April. This matter was attended to personally by Soslan Sikoyev, commandant of the North Ossetian capital. Meanwhile, the presidents of both republics, who have scheduled a meeting for 15 April in Nalchik, have confirmed their readiness to continue talks. Earlier, groups of experts left the North Ossetian and Ingush capitals for Kabardino-Balkaria to make preparations for the presidents' summit.

Ossetia-Ingush Talks Resume

LD1304220794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1744 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] The Ossetian-Ingush talks at the level of working groups of the two republics' experts were renewed in Nalchik (the capital of Kabardino Balkaria). Head of the Ossetian negotiation, Georgiy Jikgayev, told Interfax that a draft treaty on implementation of the Russian president's decree on return of refugees and displaced persons to their homes on North Ossetian and Ingush territory was being coordinated at the meeting of the experts.

The document had been adopted in general at the first round of the talks with the participation of Ossetian President Akhsarbek Galazov and Ingush President Ruslan Aushev in Nalchik in early April. Jikgayev was certain that experts would manage to work out a single draft document which the two presidents would discuss at their summit in Nalchik on April 14.

Chernomyrdin Sends Telegram

LD1404130094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1055 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Text] Despite the fact that hostages were taken on April 12 on the territory of North Ossetia, the second round of

the North Ossetian-Ingushi talks started in Nalchik on Thursday. The delegations are led by Akhsarbek Galazov and Ruslan Aushev.

Before the talks the head of the interim authority Vladimir Lozovoy read out a government telegram signed by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. It says that the Cabinet worked out and approved measures to carry out the Russian president's decree on the return of refugees. Chernomyrdin expressed hope that both sides will find success in their talks.

The delegations started discussing the draft treaty between the two republics "On the Principles, Measures and Terms for the Implementation of the Russian President's Decree for the Return of the Refugees and Displaced People to the North Ossetia and the Ingushi Republic."

Murky Laws Blamed for Ossetian-Ingush Conflict

MK1304124094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Apr 94 p 3

[Unattributed NEGA report in the "Northern Ossetia" column]

[Text] Ali Aliyev, chairman of the Confederation of Caucasus Peoples' parliament, who arrived in Vladikavkaz on a peacemaking mission, has visited the Supreme Soviet of Northern Ossetia. A. Aliyev told about the Confederation's activity to restore peace and accord in Russia's southern republics. Elaborating on problems of resolving the Ossetian-Ingush conflict, Aliyev stressed that to a very large extent it "has been provoked" by the Russian Federation law On Rehabilitation of Repressed Peoples, which does not envision a mechanism for territorial rehabilitation, and also by the Russian Federation law On the Formation of the Ingush Republic, which does not designate its administrative boundaries.

Tatar Nationalists Hold Plenum, State Goals

944F0561C Kazan IZVESTIYA TATARSTANA in Russian 9 Apr 94 p 1

[Article by Ayaz Khasanov: "TOTs Intends To Come to Power"]

[Text] As IZVESTIYA TATARSTANA has reported, the cochairmen of the Tatar Social Center [TOTs] held a news conference in Kazan on the subject "The Future of the National Movement."

One of the leaders of the TOTs, Maro Shamsutdinov, acquainted journalists with the decisions of the last plenum of the social center, which openly proclaimed a new objective—coming to power. Moreover, it was emphasized: only by constitutional means. Up to the present TOTs had not put forth such a slogan, and has generally not engaged in the struggle for power. It also endeavored to resolve questions of the federalization of Russia. In the opinion of the organizers of the news conference there has been no real federalism in the Russian Federation, there is none, and it seems there will not be any; it has remained a unitary state.

For this reason, the leaders of the national movement cannot concur with the fact of the signing of the treaty between Tatarstan and Russia, which preserves the centralized distribution of a planned economy. But what is dangerous, TOTs members think, is not the treaty, which actually is more of a political nature, but intergovernmental agreements that are reinforced by the treaty. TOTs cannot agree at all with the 12 agreements in which the direct implementation of the treaty is laid out. And it does not share the position of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tatarstan, which remains silent when the executive organs sign an interstate treaty. Early elections to parliament, TOTs representatives think, are simply necessary inasmuch as the legislative organ is not coping with its functions.

In the opinion of the leaders of the national movement, the formation of a new personnel policy plays a not unimportant role. Up to now this question is being resolved in secrecy. But what is needed, first and foremost, is the appointment of heads of administration through elections. Otherwise they will remain officials with unlimited authority over which there is no control.

The TOTs leaders intend also to engage in the destatization of the mass media, as they are convinced that they are strictly subordinated today to the power structures.

Regarding the question of a split in the leadership of the national movement, Rashat Safin informed journalists of the decision of the plenum to declare a moratorium on criticism and fighting among themselves. "For the sake of the nation's interests, we must be together, especially since our views have never differed on the main thing."

International Affairs

Foreign Minister on Black Sea Fleet Incident

LD1304165194 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] A briefing in the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry told journalists Kiev's official position regarding the events in Odessa. The press were informed that yesterday consultations were held behind closed doors between Admiral Feliks Gromov and Russian Special Envoy Yuriy Dubinin on the one hand and Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Tarasyuk on the other. Judging from the fact that those involved in the consultations did not wish to see the press any nearer than a bullet shot away, no particular progress was achieved. In an exclusive interview for the Today program, the Ukrainian foreign minister, Anatoliy Zlenko, added that:

[Begin Zlenko recording] Everything that is going on around the Black Sea Fleet is not controlled—we have just been convinced of this on the basis of the event that took place in Odessa. I think that if we are able to find a solution to the Black Sea Fleet problem in the near future, we need to find a solution for the Black Sea Fleet on the basis of mutual interests and not approach a solution in a unilateral manner. [end recording]

Russia's Dubunin, Gromov Denied Access To Odessa

LD1304161594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1557 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow 13 April, TASS—Russian Ambassador at Large Yuriy Dubinin and Russian Navy Commander Admiral Feliks Gromov failed to reach Odessa on Wednesday where they planned to probe into the recent incidents.

Dubinin and Gromov are currently staying in Sevastopol as the Ukrainian side refused to allow them to enter Odessa, the Black Sea Fleet press centre quoted both men as saying at a joint news conference in Sevastopol on Wednesday.

"While one side is studying the situation on the spot the other has been denied such a possibility, it is extremely hard to establish the truth," Gromov said.

At the same time, he said that the research ship Cheleken which brought radar equipment from Odessa to Sevastopol did not violate Russian-Ukrainian agreements. However, the incidents in Odessa, including the seizure of a Black Sea Fleet reserve unit, "violate the spirit and the letter of the Massandra and other agreements," he added.

He stressed that a Navy personnel department official has been sent to Odessa to find out the composition of the unit, how many sailors have taken the Ukrainian oath of allegiance, conditions of life and work in the unit and other circumstances.

The participants in the press conference said that the incidents will be discussed at the upcoming round of Russian-Ukrainian talks on the Black Sea Fleet due to take place in Moscow at the end of April.

Gromov believes "it is necessary to do everything possible in order not to whip up tension in the fleet." He said the Russian Navy is determined to "resolve all disputes over the fleet on a legal basis within the context of strengthening state relations between the Slavic states."

He expressed the hope that the forthcoming talks will facilitate the implementation of the previously reached agreements to hand over Ukraine's part of the fleet to the Russian Navy. He regretted that since September 1993 Russia has been financing the fleet alone, although under the agreement Ukraine is supposed to cover 50 per cent of the expenses. Moreover, Ukraine has imposed customs duties, fines and even tax on land on the Black Sea Fleet, while exempting its own Armed Forces. "If the Black Sea Fleet is fully financed by the Russian Federation, it should become Russian," Gromov concluded.

Resolution of Black Sea Fleet Issue Reported

LD1304203394 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Excerpt] The issue of the Black Sea Fleet is to be resolved in the spirit of the Massandra protocol. A provisional understanding to this effect has been reached in Kiev at the meeting of the Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk with a Russian delegation which included, among other participants, Yuriy Dubinin, a special envoy of the Russian Foreign Ministry, and the commander in chief of the Russian Navy, Admiral Feliks Gromov. I would like to remind you that under the Massandra document the Ukrainian part of the Black Sea Fleet is to be handed over to Russia as a part payment towards Ukraine's debt for the Russian energy resources. [passage omitted]

Black Sea Fleet Officers Swear Allegiance

LD1304180894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1732 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Report by UKRINFORM correspondent Viktoria Mstislavsakaya for TASS]

[Text] Odessa 13 April, TASS—A total of 39 officers and warrant officers of the 318th Division of the Black Sea Fleet swore allegiance to Ukraine. Now, they will serve in a newly formed division of naval border guard ships belonging to the Ukrainian Navy.

Apart from the newcomers, the new division of the Ukrainian Navy includes the entire 46th Hydro-Region,

consisting of two hydrographers, eight boats, a radio-technical unit and auxiliary services. This is presumed to be the result of a recent incident involving the "Cheleken" hydrographer, which was barred from leaving the sea port of Odessa.

Commander of the Western Naval Region of the Ukrainian Navy, Captain First rank Dmitriy Ukrainets, told a correspondent of the UKRINFORM news agency that the main cause of the incident in Odessa was an attempt to rob the ship. "The problem of the division of the fleet, its property and equipment has not been finally resolved yet, and some 'anxious servicemen' are trying to grab as much as possible" Ukrainets said.

Black Sea Officers Condemn Ukrainian Actions

LD1304211194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1744 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] An assembly of Black Sea Fleet officers has condemned "the openly confrontational actions by Ukrainian servicemen with respect to Black Sea Fleet units in Odessa." The officers took as a basis a resolution where they stated their complete lack of confidence in the Ukrainian Defense Ministry and personally Ukrainian Naval Forces Commander Rear Admiral Vladimir Bezkorovainy.

The officers hoped that the Ukrainian president would not approve the actions by the Ukrainian servicemen who attacked Black Sea Fleet units in Odessa and would take corresponding measures against the organizers of the large-scale provocation in Odessa.

The officers said the conflict was "pushing them to respond in kind." They recalled that the Ukrainian Defense Ministry's unilateral attempts to seize a fireboat in May 1993 triggered off an outbreak of indignation in the entire fleet which resulted in hoisting historical St.Andrew's crosses on 226 vessels. The officers were quoted as saying that "there were neither common sense in the actions by the Ukrainian Defense Ministry, nor reasons that would prevent Black Sea Fleet from voicing their protest in this way," i.e. hoist Russian St. Andrew's crosses once again.

The chairman of the committee coordinating the activities of officers' assemblies in the entire Black Sea Fleet, Valeriy Volodin, told the meeting that there had been no contact with the fleet's units stationed in Odessa for five days. The Army telephone exchange is at a standstill.

The wives of Odessa navymen had been calling via public telephone networks to say the Ukrainian command was still applying pressure upon the personnel of the vessel conservation group and the hydrographic unit. Representatives of the Russian command and the Black Sea Fleet had not been admitted to the territory of the unit.

Interfax learned that many of the officers supported a proposal to withdraw Ukrainian troops from Crimea. In addition, some proposed not to admit the Ukrainian vessel Slavutich to the main base of the Black Sea Fleet in Sevastopol until the issue was solved.

Kravchuk, Yeltsin To Discuss Black Sea Fleet

LD1304201194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1752 GMT 13 Apr 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovsky; Edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] Well-informed sources in the Ukrainian cabinet have informed INTERFAX that President Leonid Kravchuk is planning to discuss with President Boris Yeltsin in Moscow on Friday [15 April] the incident involving a Russian hydrographic ship and the detention of Black Sea Fleet officers by a Ukrainian special force in Odessa. IF Note: The possibility of a special Ukrainian-Russian summit was reportedly discussed during a Monday telephone conversation between Kravchuk and the Russian Prime-Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. On 10 April some 120 Ukrainian troops stormed a group of conservation ships of the Black Sea Fleet in Odessa. Several naval officers were detained. Later they were released at the demand of the Russian government.

A high-ranking Ukrainian government expert has told the press in Kiev that the leaders of the two countries will hopefully find a way out of the present situation. He said Ukraine continues to insist on resolving the problem on the basis of Yalta, Zavidovo and Massandra agreements. (In Zavidovo it was agreed that the fleet would be equally divided between Ukraine and Russia while the Massandra protocol implied the surrender of the entire fleet to Russia—INTERFAX.)

The expert said it is impossible to drag out the solution of the situation any longer. He hoped that both sides will have enough common sense to prevent an open armed conflict.

He said that during the Tuesday talks in Kiev with a Russian delegation that included the Chief Commander of the Russian Navy Feliks Gromov and the ambassador at large Yuriy Dubinin no decisions were made.

The expert believes that the aggravation of the conflict benefits "pro-imperial" forces in the Russian leadership. He said that there are people in the Russian presidential council, in particular Sergey Karaganov and Andranik Migranian, who want to strip Ukraine of its independence.

Black Sea Ships 'Prepared for Military Action'

LD1304210194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1835 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] The Black Sea Fleet ships stationed in Sevastopol, for instance the Admiral Golovko rocket cruiser, are being urgently supplied with armaments. This was announced to INTERFAX-Ukraine by Chief of the

Ukrainian Navy press center, Nikolay Savchenko. He said the ships were prepared for military action.

Savchenko also announced that several Ukrainian fleet ships, for instance the Getman Sagaidachny patrol ship and the Lutsk antisubmarine cruiser had not been supplied with electric power from the land. The Black See Fleet's command explained this by nonpayment for electric power already delivered. However, the Ukrainian Navy financial service said Kiev had no debts.

Servicemen Seize Black Sea Fleet Vessels

LD1304205194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1835 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] This afternoon, Ukrainian servicemen seized one large and one medium amphibious vessels of the 318th vessel conservation group of the Black Sea Fleet stationed in Odessa. The press office of the Black Sea Fleet told Interfax that the Ukrainians also seized the group's training camp and hoisted Ukrainian national flags there.

The families of 18 officers and warrant officers, including the group's chief of staff, Second Captain Aleksandr Zelenko, and the commander of a coastal base, Second Captain Dmitriy Starikov, who refused to take an oath to Ukraine were expelled out of their apartments on the same day.

According to the press office, the navymen and their families are sitting on their suitcases on the street waiting for evacuation to Sevastopol.

In the meantime, Kiev stated it was forming its first coast guards brigade on the basis of the 318th vessel conservation division of the Black Sea Fleet which was dissolved after an incident with the hydrographic vessel Cheleken. Ukrainian Defense Minister appointed Second Captain Mikhail Marchenko as the commander of the brigade on 10 April.

The press office of the Odessa military district said that 22 out of 34 warrant officers and four out of 11 officers of the 318th group had already taken an oath to Ukraine.

The Odessa military district commander, Lieutenant General Vladimir Shkitchenko, told the former 318th group's command on 12 April on behalf of the Ukrainian defense minister that he guaranteed "those officers who do not want to serve in the Ukrainian navy the possibility to leave for any other place without any obstacles."

"The seeing-off ceremony for the navymen leaving for another place of service will be organized with the adequate military honors," the Odessa military district press office assured Interfax. "The officers and warrant officers will be paid their salaries until the last days of their service in the Odessa garrison."

In the meantime, the press office head, Vyacheslav Voronkov, told INTERFAX that the Ukrainian Navy took under control the Nikolayev and Odessa hydrographic districts on 11 April in accordance with an order by the Ukrainian defense minister.

In particular, the Ukrainian navy created its first hydrographic district headed by Third Captain Nikolay Zakharov on the basis of the former Black Sea Fleet's 46th hydrographic district. The new Ukrainian unit includes 11 servicemen, including 10 officers and one warrant officer. As many as seven of them have already taken an oath to Ukraine.

Foreign Ministry Denies Understanding Reached

LD1304203594 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] This is a report by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.

On 13 April Ostankino TV carried information to the effect that an agreement on solving the Black Sea Fleet issues on the basis of the Massandra protocol was allegedly reached during the negotiations in Kiev. The Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs reports that this does not comply with reality. Ukraine proceeds from the necessity of a comprehensive approach toward the Black Sea Fleet issue, with regard to the provisions of the Dagomys, Yalta, and Zavidovo agreements, as well as the Massandra protocol.

Besides, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine points out that the Ostankino report about the visit by the representatives of the Russian Government to Odessa also fails to correspond to reality. Contrary to the agreements reached in Kiev, Russian Navy Commander in Chief Feliks Gromov undermined the meeting with the command and the officers' personnel of the Black Sea Fleet to be held jointly with the Ukrainian side. Such reports and actions, underlines the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, show who is really standing in the way of a just solution to the Black Sea Fleet issue.

Black Sea Fleet Officers Hold Meeting

LD1304205894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1950 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Report by UKRINFORM correspondent Mikhail Stetsyuk for TASS]

[Text] Sevastopol, 13 Apr—Over 300 delegates from military units, establishments, and services of the main base of the Black Sea Fleet and the fleet's garrisons gathered today in the Sailors' Club for an officers' meeting. There were no representatives of the command at the meeting; it was organized and conducted by the leaders of the fleet's Council of Officers' Meetings. The officers discussed the situation connected with the events in Odessa.

The meeting passed a resolution expressing no-confidence in the Ukrainian Defense Ministry and in Vice Admiral Vladimir Beskaravaynyy, commander of

the Ukrainian Navy. The meeting again called the attention of the presidents of Ukraine and Russia to the need to speed up the adoption of a decision on the Black Sea Fleet. The resolution called on the newly-elected Crimean Supreme Soviet to examine whether it is expedient to have the many military formations of the Ukrainian Armed Forces on the territory of the republic. The resolution also appealed to the deputies of the town soviets of Odessa, Sevastopol, Ochakov, Izmail, and Nikolayev to discuss the Odessa events and give their assessment of them. The officers' meeting was very stormy and showed that the officers by no means believe that they should refrain from interfering in political processes.

Massandra Protocol To Help Solve Fleet Problems

LD1304213794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1744 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Problems of the Black Sea Fleet are going to be resolved in the spirit of the Massandra protocol. A preliminary understanding to this end was reached last Tuesday in Kiev at the meeting of President Leonid Kravchuk and a Russian delegation, which included among others ambassador Yuriy Dubinin and the Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Navy Admiral Feliks Gromov. This was reported to the press on Wednesday in Sevastopol by Admiral Gromov who came to the Crimea together with Dubinin to study the situation involving the fleet.

Under the Massandra protocol the Ukrainian part of the fleet should be surrendered to Russia as a form of payment for Ukrainian debts for Russian fuel and energy supplies.

However, according to well-informed sources in the staff of the fleet, the essence of the protocol is going to be slightly changed. Russia will be getting only the part of the fleet stationed in Sevastopol together with the infrastructure of the city. Ukraine will keep the other naval facilities and ships located and stationed in Ukraine and Crimea.

Dubinin described the meeting with Kravchuk as constructive. He said that immediately after returning to Moscow the Russian delegation is going to submit a detailed report about its visit to Kiev and Sevastopol to the president and prime minister. Dubinin and Gromov hope that the information about the meeting with Kravchuk and the report as a whole will help ease the tension caused by the latest incidents related to the fleet and resolve the fleet problem as a whole.

Gromov regretted the refusal of the Ukrainian authorities to permit the Russian delegation to Odessa where it intended to sort out the difficulties. He stressed that it is quite difficult to establish the truth and added that he did not see anything wrong in the steps taken by the Cheleken ship. Last Saturday the ship took navigation equipment from Odessa to Sevastopol.

"That is why I think the conflict was to a certain extent provoked by the actions of Ukrainian naval representatives who came to detain the hydrographic vessel," Gromov said. According to him, the seizure of the conservation ships in Odessa was a direct violation of all agreements between Russia and Ukraine.

First Nuclear Fuel Cassette Shipment Received

LD1304135394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1308 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Kiev 13 April, UKRINFORM-TASS—The first shipment of nuclear fuel cassettes has arrived from Russia at Europe's largest nuclear power station in Zaporizhzhe, Ukraine. It is a compensation for the nuclear warheads Ukraine has dismantled.

This means that practical implementation has begun of the measures envisioned in the trilateral statement signed by the presidents of Russia, Ukraine, and the United States in Moscow in January. According to specialists, the fuel delivered to the Zaporizhzhe nuclear power station will suffice to keep one of five power-generating units operating for a year and give Ukraine 5.5 to 6 billion kW hours of cheap electricity.

Government Concerned Over NATO Air Strikes

LD1304215494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1951 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Report by UKRINFORM correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Kiev 13 April, TASS—We are greatly concerned over the fact that NATO had to launch air strikes against Bosnian Serb positions and view them as the last resort. However, we understand that NATO was forced to resort to this drastic measure, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko told a briefing on Wednesday.

"We are above all concerned over the failed attempts to solve the conflict in this region by political means," he noted. "We believe there is a possibility of going ahead with political dialogue, which successfully got under way in Bosnia-Herzegovina," the foreign minister stressed. "In my opinion, a positive solution to it is quite possible. We see to it that the situation remain under control, since a lot of U.N. peacekeeping forces are deployed in this region, including our Ukrainian battalion. I think we are doing our utmost to prevent any unpredictable developments there, the more so as the situation is under control of U.N. troops and NATO forces. I believe the conflict will be avoided," Zlenko emphasised.

National Affairs

Crimea's Meshkov Criticizes Decision on Representative

AU1304134394 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 12 Apr 94 p 1

[Report attributed to the BBC]

[Text] President of the Crimean Autonomous Republic Yuriy Meshkov subjected the decision by the Ukrainian president to create the institution of Ukrainian presidential representative in the Crimea to sharp criticism. In his televised speech, Meshkov called the Ukrainian Government "the most dangerous in Europe." He pointed out that the appointment of such a representative is a political provocation, which may do harm to the development of the democratic process on the peninsula. This was reported by the BBC.

Internal Affairs Ministry Condemns Meshkov Decision

LD1304121894 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2035 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Kiev, 12 Apr—As the main center for public relations of the Ukrainian Ministry of Internal Affairs has reported, the decision by President Meshkov of Crimea to dismiss Major General Oleksandr Plyuta, the minister of internal affairs, and the appointment of Valeriy Kuznetsov, a former military general, in his place, is another step that will exacerbate the political situation on the peninsula and undermine friendly relations between Russia and Ukraine.

"The violation of legal norms on the part of the state structures of the autonomous Republic with regard to the Ministry of Internal Affairs' leadership and attempts to resolve the problem through uncivilized methods are causing tension in the militia's activity. All this could lead to adverse consequences," the statement from the Ministry of Internal Affairs reads. "On the basis of the Ukrainian 'Law on the Militia' dated 20 December 1990, the militia of our state is a single system of organs that are part of the Ministry of Internal Affairs structure and are subordinate to it in their activities. With the exception of rayon and municipal branches, the leadership of internal affairs bodies is appointed personally by the minister of internal affairs of Ukraine.

"Such cadre changes, therefore, are exclusively of a political nature, do not contribute to the strengthening of lawfulness in the state, and lead to confrontation in society. It is all the more dangerous when it concerns armed formations—subdivisions of the militia which have a duty to protect the law, honor, life, and property interests of citizens."

The statement stresses: "The abovementioned decrees of the Crimean president concerning changes to the leadership of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the autonomous republic should be repealed in so far as they do not conform with current Ukrainian legislation."

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine has called on the president, the Supreme Council, the government, the populace, and the officials of the internal affairs bodies of the Republic of Crimea to show awareness, public consciousness, restraint, and respect for the current Constitution of Ukraine.

Simferopol Rally Supports Meshkov Against Kiev's Actions

LD1304150894 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1245 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Simferopol [no date as received]—The Crimean president's press service circulated a statement on 12 April saying: "Kiev is trying to deprive the president and government of Crimea of real power levers, take the militia, the Security Service, communications, television and radio out of our control, cram the peninsula with troops and military technology, lower the Republic's status to that of an oblast, and smother the Crimeans' will for independent and responsible decisionmaking." The statement said the appointment of Ukraine's presidential representative is regarded as an attempt to sow seeds of discord in Crimea. The press service called on all enterprise and organization managers to obey the decisions of the president, Supreme Council, and government of Crimea "without entering into contact with the illegally appointed Ukraine's presidential representative in Crimea." The citizens of Crimea are invited to express their attitude to this power institution. In Yuriy Meshkov's opinion, Ukraine's moves are aimed at preventing him from pursuing economic reforms and fully restoring the Crimean Constitution.

A rally was held on the same day in support of Crimean President Meshkov, and in the evening tents were set up by the building of the Crimean Supreme Council at the initiative of Russian Society leader Anatoliy Los and Oleksandr Kanafyev. Crimea's political leaders said they were ready to take up arms to defend Yuriy Meshkov and Crimea's state independence and called on the people of Simferopol to bring warm clothes and join the vigil at the tents. Some of the speakers said two planes were due to arrive in Simferopol from Kiev carrying the special task force, and no one knew what would happen; therefore it was necessary to keep calm and resist the Ukrainian leadership's provocations.

The night by the building of the Crimean Supreme Council went by uneventfully. Organizers did not say when the tents would be taken down but promised they would be there as long as necessary.

Internal Affairs Ministry Criticizes Meshkov's Decrees

LD1304225494 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] A report by the Main Public Relations Center of the Internal Affairs Ministry of Ukraine qualifies the decrees by the president of Crimea on the dismissal of Oleksandr Plyuta, the internal affairs minister of the autonomy, and the appointment of Former Military General Valeriy Kuznetsov to his post as yet another step toward aggravating the situation on the peninsula.

The document, in particular, points out that yet another attempt was made to involve the law enforcement bodies

in political battles, Ukraine's Internal Affairs Ministry in particular. All this may lead to negative consequences.

On the strength of the law of Ukraine on militia, the report also says, the militia of our state is a single system of bodies that are part of the structure of the Internal Affairs Ministry of Ukraine and whose activities are subordinated to it. The leading personnel of the interior bodies, excluding rayon and city departments, are appointed by the internal affairs minister of Ukraine personally. Therefore, underlines the Main Public Relations Center, such a personnel reshuffling has exclusively political essence, it does not promote consolidation of lawfulness in the state and leads to confrontation in society.

The above decrees by the president of the Crimea Republic on changes in the leadership of the Internal Affairs Ministry of the autonomous republic must be cancelled as such that do not comply with the legislation currently in force in Ukraine.

Further on Security Service Statement on Meshkov

LD1304225294 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] A press group of the Crimean Security Service has circulated the following report: On 11 April, the president of the autonomy, Yuriy Meshkov, notified Crimean Security Service personnel of the decrees that terminated the plenary powers of its head, Major-General Ivan Kolomytsev, and appointed Volodymyr Lepikhov, who was transferred from the armed forces to the reserve 18 months ago in the same rank of Major-General, to this post.

On the same day, the Crimean Security Service received a telegram from the leader of the Security Service of Ukraine, Yevhen Marchuk, in which the above decrees are qualified as running contrary to the constitutions and the laws of Ukraine and Crimea, which regulate the order of appointments to and dismissals from this post.

At the same time, Ivan Kolomytsev was told to continue fulfilling the duties with which he was charged. At present, the personnel of the Security Service are carrying out planned operational-procedural activity on guaranteeing security and maintaining civil peace and accord in Crimea.

The press group summarizes this by indicating that the situation brought about by Yuriy Meshkov's decrees is fraught with the threat to the inviolability of the principle of lawfulness in the formation and activities of the security service bodies and the implementation of constitutional powers by this service.

The press group expresses the hope that the precedent, which occurred exceptionally on the principles of legality, law and order, and respect of the rights and freedoms of every citizen, will be solved.

'Text' of Government Statement on Kuchma

LD1304183694 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] [Announcer] The press center of Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers has circulated a statement for the media concerning the activities of Former Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma which our colleague Anatoliy Komirenko will read for you.

[Begin Komirenko recording] Leonid Kuchma, a recent prime minister, now president of the Ukrainian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, has been remarkably active lately. Numerous press interviews by the former prime minister have appeared in Ukraine and neighboring countries, in which, using more slogans than facts, he embarks on a search for scapegoats for the present difficult economic situation in Ukraine.

In his latest press appearances, he puts the blame on the so-called "Party of Power," the present government. Strangely enough, in none of his appearances does Leonid Kuchma associate himself with this party, although only six months ago he was one of the top state officials who determined the country's political and economic course, and therefore, commanded considerable powers to overcome the crisis.

Taking the office of prime minister in Autumn 1992, Leonid Kuchma declared his readiness to take upon himself responsibility for the state of affairs in the economy. In order to cure it, his government was granted the widest of powers. Incidentally, despite the complexity of the situation, the objective opportunities for a comprehensive reform in the Ukrainian economy then were tangibly better than now. But did Leonid Kuchma take advantage of them? The answer is evident from the results of economic management in 1993, when it was Kuchma who headed the government: A complete imbalance of macroeconomic parameters that is having an extremely negative effect on the present state of the economy, a 100-fold retail price rise twice exceeding the rate of wage increase. The wage share in a product's cost price has shrunk almost two-fold. If one should also take into account the devaluation of the population's savings, one can safely say that last year every resident of Ukraine became much poorer than he was before Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma took office. One should be reminded that at his initiative the indexation of the population's incomes, as well as the publication of price indexes for consumer goods, were terminated. The former prime minister is currently passing himself for a mouthpiece of producers' interests. But how did they fare under his leadership?

During the time Leonid Kuchma was government head, taxes grew significantly and huge excise taxes were introduced. All this befell the producer as a heavy burden and undermined entrepreneurship. Creditor's indebtedness among enterprises has grown 62 times over the past year, as a result of which the most severe crisis of payments got under way, whose consequences are

reflected today in full measure in a decline of production, overdue wages payments, and other disorders. The growth in the budget profits was ensured not by the economy's incomes, but by monetary emission.

In his time, holding the high post, Leonid Kuchma accused the National Bank of the karbovanets collapse, however, with the 17-fold growth in emission last year, the exchange rate of the Ukrainian currency per dollar fell 36 times. As a whole, with the three-fold devaluation of the dollar in Ukraine taken into account, the purchasing capacity of the karbovanets decreased 100 times. This is not the fault of the National Bank but the result of the absolutely unbalanced foreign economic and currency policy by the Kuchma government, which caused the outflow of money and capitals from Ukraine.

Legal relations in the state were significantly affected by the hasty decree-making activity by Leonid Kuchma. The abrogation or amendment of many enactments and their separate provisions brought more confusion into legislation than order. It is in the times that Leonid Kuchma headed the government, that they began to impose a thesis on Ukraine's feebleness upon society and disbelief in our state's ability to get out of the crisis situation.

Obviously, Leonid Kuchma's personal inability to fulfill his numerous promises to restore order in Ukraine and raise people's living standards was far from playing the least important role in this.

To a great extent the miscalculations made by the Kuchma team conditioned the worsening of the economic situation in the Crimea Republic, resulting in the formation of anti-Ukrainian sentiments there. Firstly, a ban on the export of agricultural produce, grown on subsidiary plots of land, to Russia and other countries, which were traditional markets to sell that produce, affected Crimea more than other regions of the country.

A cunning blow against one of Crimea's leading industries—wine-making—was the introduction of high excise duties for its products, at the same time, with the abolition of excise duties for imported, often low-quality, beverages. As a result of this arbitrary rule, the viability of world-famous Crimean wines was artificially undermined, which led to a decline in their production. Finally, the third blow against the Crimean economy was the decisions preventing the development of lease relations that had gained wide popularity, particularly in Crimea.

One's attention is caught by Leonid Kuchma's attempt to gamble on such a topical issue as Ukraine's nuclear disarmament. In one of his latest interviews, he is threatening, with a multitude of economic and environmental consequences involved, to implement the trilateral statement by the presidents of Ukraine, Russia, and the United States. But it is Leonid Kuchma's signature that was put under the Massandra Protocol of 3 September 1993 on the withdrawal of all nuclear warheads from Ukraine in the course of 24 months! So, when did he really defend state interests? Last autumn in Crimea, or during his interviews this spring?

Leonid Kuchma puts most of the blame on those members of government whom he personally invited to join his cabinet. Although, it is they who now have to put out the fire of the crisis which they could not do last year, working under the former prime minister's leadership. Perhaps, one should not pay attention to all this. All sorts of things can be heard and read at a time of a great public and political campaign, like the recent and upcoming elections to the top state institutions. However, the arguments and slogans used by Leonid Kuchma more often than not mislead entrepreneurs and citizens in Ukraine and those states whose papers publish his interviews. Take, for example, the accusation against the present state leadership of choosing the road of self-isolation. The reality proves different. In actual fact, Ukraine is now following the road of consolidating its state independence, at the same time, establishing mutually beneficial economic and political cooperation with the countries of both the West and East.

Suffice it to say that 35 various economic agreements have been concluded with Russia alone, 28 agreements with Belarus, 25 agreements with Kazakhstan, 23 agreements with Kyrgyzstan, 16 agreements with Uzbekistan, and 13 agreements with Turkmenistan. At the latest meeting of the heads of state and government of the CIS countries alone, which took place in Ashgabat in December 1993, Ukraine's representatives signed about 20 bilateral documents, the majority of which dealt with economy.

Ukraine, as a cofounder of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation [PACZES], is working out draft agreements on a significant expansion of mutually advantageous contacts with the PACZES countries: Turkey, Romania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Albania, Georgia, and Russia.

Greece, Bulgaria, Slovakia, and Poland expressed their wish to join PACZES. Recently Ukraine, by the way, the first among the CIS countries, initialled the agreement on partnership and cooperation with the European Union which lifts restrictions on our trade relations with the EEC countries. Such a balanced policy will promote the stabilization of Ukraine's economy. And if it were not for the consequences of numerous incompetent decisions made by the Leonid Kuchma government in the first half of 1993, which the present-day government has to overcome and the fruit of which all the citizens of Ukraine have to reap, the economic situation could have been stabilized much sooner.

The Cabinet of Ministers is working on the implementation of a program aimed at overcoming the crisis phenomena in economy and improving people's living conditions in 1994. It is exactly this that the government of Ukraine regards to be its duty. [end recording]

[Announcer] Anatoliy Komirenko acquainted you with the statement by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine in connection with the activities by Former Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma.

Kiev, Simferopol's War of Decrees Continues

LD1304200894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1939 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Report by UKRINFORM-TASS]

[Text] Kiev 13 April, TASS—The press service of the Crimean Security Department issued a statement on Wednesday denouncing Kiev's response to the latest appointment of a new department head decreed by the Crimean president.

"The latest steps by Kiev hinder the fulfilment by the Crimean Security Department its constitutional duties and infringe moral losses to its personnel," the statement said.

On Monday, Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov dismissed Kiev's appointee Major-General Ivan Kolymtsev from the post of the local security chief and replaced him by his own protege, Retired Major-General Vladimir Lepikhov.

Security bosses in Kiev responded instantly with an angry message signed by Yevgueny Marchuk, head of the republican Security Service. The message commanded Kolymtsev to ignore Meshkov's decree and continue to run the office and qualified Meshkov's decree as unconstitutional.

The UKRINFORM report did not specify which of the two generals exactly runs the department today, but at least "all scheduled operations to safeguard security and civil accord on the Peninsula are being conducted normally", the press service stated.

Kravchuk-Plyushch Rivalry Examined

944K1056A Kiev NEZAVISIMOST in Russian 1 Apr 94 p 2

[Article by Vyacheslav Pikhovshek, Vybor, under the rubric "Whom We Elect": "Ivan Stepanovich Versus Leonid Makarovich"]

[Text] Against the background of Leonid Kravchuk's continuous statements regarding the "chaos in which the new Ukrainian parliament will be elected," and the "inappropriateness of holding presidential elections in the environment of instability in society," the almost demonstrative silence of Ivan Plyushch, the parliament speaker and Kravchuk's main potential rival in the elections, looks quite telling. An interesting trend is emerging: The more convincingly L.M. maintains that "parliamentary elections" will not take place (and the hypnotic persistence with which he keeps repeating it begins to border on a call to boycott the elections), the more Central Executive Committee Chairman Ivan Yemets and GOLOS UKRAINY—both subordinate to Kravchuk—print documents on the upcoming presidential elections.

It appears that Ivan Plyushch is indeed the obstacle against which Kravchuk's hopes to ward off the new parliament's work ran aground. The president's game plan is becoming increasingly transparent by the day: to stall under any pretext—even, as some people on Grushevskiy Street maintain, by resorting to presidential rule—his own reelection; and it is only possible to impose such rule by provoking the population to nonparticipation in the elections on a massive scale. That Kravchuk's contention regarding a "power vacuum in the state" is, to put it mildly, somewhat exaggerated seems to be clear to everyone but the president: The old Supreme Council, in accordance with current legislation, retains its powers until the first session of the new Supreme Council. Therefore, the president's words may be interpreted in a purely human context, as an awareness as to how much a person may not want successful elections to the parliament, from which one may expect anything—for instance, reaffirming the June elections or a decision that Ukraine will be a parliamentary Republic altogether.

The conflict between the two parts of the nomenklatura has reached its apogee. Ivan Stepanovich made an effort in advance to ensure that Kravchuk would not have substantial influence on the conduct of elections by, among other things, placing his own people in charge of electoral commissions at all levels. "The subsequent course of events," says a man who works on the speaker's staff and is knowledgeable about the rules of nomenklatura games, "was not difficult to foresee. Kravchuk's people added a great number of candidates in the districts in order to confuse the voters and thus get the elections postponed." It appears that the only factor that works for Kravchuk in carrying out his plan is the weather, since sunny days may prompt practical Ukrainians to tend to more practical matters than politics—for instance, vegetable gardens. There are some signs, however, that Plyushch's people have considered this possibility, too. "Ivan Stepanovich is also a skillful apparatchik," says my interlocutor, "and some preparations have been made in this respect, too" (meaning apparently the decision to hold the elections on any day before 10 April of this year—ed.). That is, as long as Plyushch can influence the course of elections, there is still hope that they will take place after all.

There is another substantial factor that now has been added to the fight for parliament seats and possibly for the right to be the president. The speaker's chances to claim the presidency are currently higher than ever. It is quite possible that his plans for the future presidency are the main reason why the Supreme Council never adopted the package of laws defining the functions and substantially limiting the rights of a "popularly elected" one.

Undoubtedly, in today's Ukraine Ivan Plyushch is the man who in real terms and to considerable degree shapes the political situation. He has a phenomenal memory, incredible capacity for work, and his skill in manipulating parliament is amazing. There have been practically no instances of the Supreme Council approving something contrary to the speaker's wish, or not approving something when Ivan Plyushch wanted it approved. He is very set in his views, and it is extraordinarily difficult to convince him that the opposite point of view may be the correct one. Only once did he admit openly at a presidium meeting that giving L. Kuchma's government the right to issue legislative acts had been a tremendous mistake on the part of himself, the speaker. It was easy to see with the naked eye, however, how hard it was for Ivan Plyushch to bring himself to admit this.

One can say almost with certainty that in the near future the determinant influence in Ukrainian political life will be that of the relations, mutual counteraction, and tactical compromises between the parliamentary and executive nomenklatura groups headed by L. Kravchuk and I. Plyushch.

Comparing their chances, one observes first and foremost that the president is playing for "maintaining" the situation on the current level, and as is known, he who stays in place loses more often. Ivan Plyushch, however, is very interesting now in his silent importance—the eloquent silence of a man who is stubbornly climbing to the pinnacle of power.

Belarus

Monetary Merger Treaty With Russia Detailed

WS1304155994 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1320 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] A treaty on the unification of the Belarusian and Russian monetary systems and the conditions for operating a common monetary system, including a package of related agreements, were signed in Moscow on 12 April. These documents provide that all credit and monetary policy in the common Russian-Belarusian zone will be determined by one body—the Central Bank of Russia. This provision comes into conflict with the Belarusian Constitution, which entrusts the Belarusian National Bank with all functions of determining credit and monetary policy on Belarusian territory. This was pointed out by Belarusian National Bank Chairman Stanislaw Bahdankevich, who signed [as received] the mentioned treaty with appropriate remarks. In addition to him, the treaty was signed by Russian Central Bank Chairman Viktor Gerashchenko, as well as Prime Ministers Vyacheslaw Kebich and Viktor Chernomyrdin. According to V. Kebich, it is necessary to introduce appropriate amendments to the Belarusian Constitution and other legislative acts to make the final step toward unification. He believes that this can be done by means of a referendum. Most probably, this referendum can be held along with Belarusian presidential elections on 23 June.

Under the provisions of the Moscow documents, the unification of monetary systems will proceed in two stages. In particular, from 1 May 1994, trade customs duties will be lifted, the transit of Russian shipments through Belarus will be free of charge, and Russia will lease Belarusian facilities, which are occupied by Russian strategic forces, free of charge.

The second stage—the actual exchange of Belarusian National Bank tenders for Russian rubles—should be preceded by the Belarusian people expressing their political will regarding the unification of the two monetary systems. A one-to-one exchange rate will implemented with respect to every person for a sum not to exceed 200,000 Belarusian rubles in cash and 1 million Belarusian rubles in bank deposits and deposit certificates as of 1 April 1994. Belarusian rubles over the mentioned sum will be exchanged according to a rate determined by the national committees of statistics comparing baskets of consumer goods, as well as according to the cross-rate in dollars. With regard to legal entities, their assets and liabilities will be exchanged according to the cross-rate, as well.

Beginning from the time of the actual unification of the monetary systems of Belarus and Russia, trade between both countries will be implemented with the use of the mechanism for regulating prices, which is being used on the internal market. As of 1 July, Belarus will begin receiving credits valued at 200 billion Russian rubles.

The bilateral agreements, which were signed at the same time, are an integral part of the treaty on monetary unification. They include an agreement on a single mechanism for controlling budget systems; an agreement on trade and economic relations in the first stage of monetary unification; and protocols on the introduction of single procedures and tariff regulations in trade, on a system of free trade without confiscations and restrictions, and on the conditions and procedures for using temporary restrictions in mutual trade. An agreement on certain conditions for maintaining military units and formations on Belarusian territory was also signed.

"We removed many obstacles which curbed relations between our countries," Viktor Chernomyrdin told journalists after the signing ceremony. The Russian prime minister emphasized that it is the first time two states within the CIS economic union have achieved such a close level of cooperation.

Lukashenka Says Monetary Merger Violates Constitution

WS1304172794 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1512 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] "The government concluded a treaty on the unification of the Belarusian and Russian monetary systems in violation of the Constitution," stated People's Deputy Alyaksandr Lukashenka during a news conference on 13 April. "They will soon raise a question about the Supreme Soviet changing the basic law. However, they should be dismissed from their posts for violating the Constitution."

A. Lukashenka is sure that the amendments to the Constitution, stemming from the just-signed treaty, will not be adopted by the Supreme Soviet. This will give ground for the government to blame parliament for being unwilling to cooperate in the process of integration between Russia and Belarus. In his opinion, the document signed on 12 April is (?worse) than that signed in September 1993. First of all, this document does not resolve the primary issue—common prices for energy resources in both countries. "Such a ruble zone is devoid of all sense, because Belarusian goods on the Russian market will not be competitive due to their much higher prices," Lukashenka noted. In his opinion, the signing of the treaty on the unification of the monetary systems will somewhat add to Kebich's chances of winning the presidential elections, but there is still enough time for people "to sober up and see who is who."

Touching upon the upcoming presidential elections, Lukashenka stated that recently "a pressure on those supporting Lukashenka has begun." This pressure is exerted "primarily by the government and Supreme Soviet Chairman Mechyslaw Hryb." Alyaksandr Lukashenka reported that the group supporting him today numbers some 1,000 people; the majority of them are young people, veterans of the Afghan war, and representatives of working collectives.

Hryb Cited on Domestic Concerns, Russia Ties

PM1304153594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Apr 94 pp 1-2

[Interview with Mechyslaw Hryb, chairman of Belarusian Supreme Soviet, by Valeriy Kovalev under "Interlocutor of the Day" rubric; place and date not given: "We Are Interested in Union With Russia. We Do Not Conceal This Fact"]

[Text]

Visiting Card

Mechyslaw Ivanavich Hryb, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus. He was born in the village of Savichi, Dyatlovskiy Rayon, Grodno Oblast, in 193? [precise date illegible]. His father died at the front in 1945. He graduated from the Lvov Fire Technical School of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Later he graduated by correspondence from the law faculty of the Belarusian State University and worked in internal affairs organs. His last post before being elected a deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus in 1990 was as chief of Vitebsk Internal Affairs Administration. In parliament he headed the Standing Commission on National Security, Defense, and the Fight Against Crime.

He was elected to his present post 28 January 1994. He is a lieutenant general in the reserve.

[Kovalev] Mechyslaw Ivanavich, your election to the post of chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Belorusia [Belarus] came as a surprise to many people. Moreover, you won in a contest with two other aspirants who had, as they say, a clear advantage....

[Hryb] Quite honestly, the voting results came as a surprise to me too. I was not burning with a desire to take up the post of Supreme Soviet chairman, realizing perfectly well what a heavy burden this would prove to be, given the situation that had taken shape in the Republic. When my candidacy was proposed at a session of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, I refused categorically at first. But members of the Presidium persuaded me to run, and my deputy colleagues supported me by voting for me. After that there was no getting out of it, and I had to get down to work....

[Kovalev] It has to be thought that you are familiar with the views of certain of the mass media on your election. In particular, IZVESTIYA viewed the replacement of the Belorusian parliament's leadership as a "quiet," procommunist, nomenklatura coup....

[Hryb] These are nothing but journalists' fabrications. We have had no coups—neither quiet nor noisy. The majority of the deputies simply elected in a legal, constitutional manner the person whom they evidently trust more. In all parliaments in the world a representative of the majority is elected speaker, not one of the minority. If he suddenly stops expressing the opinion of this majority, someone is elected in his place. Then again, any coup, if one really takes place, pursues the aim of changing the former course. But we still abide by all the previously concluded treaties and agreements, and we still intend to build a market economy and a democratic state. It is only to be regretted that individual journalists invent something that does not, in fact, exist.

[Kovalev] All the same, Mechyslaw Ivanavich, how would you define your position in the political spectrum?

[Hryb] I am not now a member of any parties, movements, or factions. I adhere to a firm principle: Party membership and excessive political blinkeredness might affect the objectivity of judgments and decisionmaking by the state's top official. I am ready to cooperate—I say this sincerely—with representatives of any trends, ranging from extreme right-wingers to extreme left-wingers, if they have an equally sincere wish to work in the name of the Republic's interests. My aim is to find accord and to reach a consensus, although I realize that it is a supercomplex task to unite left- and right-wingers, but it is possible and necessary to seek a compromise when resolving individual questions—within the bounds of what is reasonable, of course.

[Kovalev] The adoption of the Republic's new Constitution was, to a certain extent, confirmation of the correctness of your position. Contrary to predictions, the constitutional process, which had long been marking time, has gotten moving. Although, as far as I know, both the parliamentary opposition—the Belorusian People's Front—and the communists' faction had serious objections to many points in the Fundamental Law....

[Hryb] Yes, there were many disagreements—fundamental ones, too. It is probably immodest to view this as being to the personal credit of the Supreme Soviet chairman, and yet I believe that I succeeded in convincing the majority of deputies that there must be no more delay: The Republic cannot go on living without clarity in the state system.

[Kovalev] The new Constitution is a very long document, and it is hard to evaluate it in a few words. And yet....

[Hryb] I believe that we have adopted a normal democratic constitution of a normal democratic state. It was worked on for more than two-and-a-half years. During that time it underwent more than one expert juridical appraisal, including abroad, when it was confirmed that it complies with international legal norms. Human rights take pride of place in the Constitution, the state system of Belorusia as a sovereign, unitary, social, legal power is clearly defined, and the powers of the legislature, the executive, and the judiciary are separated. I believe it is destined to have a long life. Of course, certain changes might be made—there are no limits to perfection—but it will hardly be necessary to alter the spirit of the Fundamental Law cardinally. It accords with the interests of our society and with the aims we have set ourselves.

[Kovalev] However, significant and important an event for Belorussia the adoption of the new Constitution was, it does not, alas, push into the background the many very acute problems which the country has encountered. What, in your view, is the root of the troubles? Why does the Republic, which always stood firmly on its feet, now find itself in such a complex situation?

[Hryb] The main reason is obvious: the breakup of the former Union. Name just one Republic where people are prospering today. There are difficulties everywhere, problems everywhere. Therefore, I find it hard to agree with the assertion by the former speaker of our parliament, who declared recently that he was proud of his involvement in signing the agreement at Viskuli. I believe, however, that, since the Soviet Union was fated to die, it was necessary to do everything possible to make that process less dramatic and less painful. To go our separate ways with the smallest losses in the economy, to maintain ties, to adopt clear pledges, not to try to survive at the expense of others. Unfortunately, it all happened according to the worst scenario. We have what we have. But what is the point in grieving? We must seek the way out of the present situation. Nobody will do this for us.

[Kovalev] On what do you pin hopes of a better future for the Republic?

[Hryb] Above all, on our people, who are sensible, competent, calm, industrious, and patient. I very much hope that they will not have to resolve all their problems on their own. We do not conceal our vital interest in union with Russia. Our countries are very closely linked in all spheres, and our peoples have regarded each other as brothers from time immemorial. Even if we take a purely pragmatic look at our ties, then—and this is a fact—more than 70 percent of all the industrial output produced in Belorussia is delivered to the east. Who, now or in the very near future, could take Russia's place as our trading partner?

[Kovalev] But Belorusian national radicals are being heard to say that such a one-sided orientation threatens a loss of sovereignty for the Republic and its transformation into a virtual colony of Russia....

[Hryb] This talk is groundless. Let us investigate. Does the Russian leadership really impose political terms on us? No, we are talking of an economic union, of which there are many in the world. Incidentally, those who believe that integration is advantageous to our country alone are mistaken. Pardon me, but Russia is also interested in Belorusia in terms of many parameters. True, we hardly have any of our own energy sources, and we have few raw materials, but we are in an advantageous strategic, geopolitical position, and there is transit of gas, oil, and huge freight flows via our territory. Russia needs the output of our enterprises, including defense output. So we are not poor relations, and we build our ties with our eastern neighbor on an equitable, mutually advantageous basis. Regarding political unification, which allegedly threatens our sovereignty, there have been and are no top-level talks on this topic. Russia does not encroach upon Belorusia's independence—I state this unequivocally. The precise conclusion of an economic union between our states is now on the agenda. The unification of the monetary systems of Russia and Belorusia must be the first step toward this. Unfortunately, this is a very protracted matter.

Finally, it is necessary to decide: What is to be done now? If it is not possible to sign the treaty in its entirety, let us bring it into force in sections, on which the sides have already reached accord. For example, on lifting customs barriers and on tax policy, if this does not work, it means that it is necessary to draw up a new text of the agreement. Just one thing is inadmissible: to sit idly by and watch the destruction of the age-old ties between our peoples. Our descendants will never forgive us for that.

[Kovalev] Mechyslaw Ivanavich, with the adoption of the new Constitution the first presidential election clearly looms ahead. Who, in your view, might win it?

[Hryb] I believe that the candidate for those forces which represent the majority in the present parliament is most likely to win. I will refrain from a more specific prognosis, for the official registration of candidates is still to come.

[Kovalev] Do you intend to run for the presidency?

[Hryb] I have not yet decided. I must give serious thought to everything and weigh it up—it is too crucial a step.

[Kovalev] Do you not exclude the possibility that a representative of the Belorussian People's Front might attain presidential power? You will agree that in that case Belorusia's foreign policy priorities might undergo serious changes—the opposition has never concealed its anti-Russian sentiments....

[Hryb] I do not believe that this will happen. Any realistically thinking politician must reckon with the fact that the majority of the republic's population pins its hopes of a better life on Russia. Therefore, attempts by any of the contenders to play the anti-Russian card during the election campaign are doomed to fail. The people will not support such a politician—I am sure of this.

[Kovalev] Before being elected to the post of Supreme Soviet chairman you headed the parliamentary Commission on National Security, Defense, and the Fight Against Crime. You are now ex officio chairman of the Republic's Security Council and supreme commander in chief of the Armed Forces. How would you rate the condition of the national army today?

[Hryb] In my view we have succeeded in creating perfectly battle-worthy armed forces. Their reduction and reorganization have taken place and are taking place strictly according to plan. The process of reforming the army will be virtually complete by 1 January 1995, and it will attain its optimum strength of approximately

100,000. This does not mean, however, that there are no problems in military organizational development. The chief problem is the shortage of funds to buy hardware, arms, fuels and lubricants, spare parts, ammunition, and much besides that the troops need. The situation is complicated by the fact that the enterprises that exist on the Republic's territory are now able to meet only approximately 3 percent of hardware and armament requirements and to repair just 2 percent of the more than 4,000 existing models of these. In this connection the question of close cooperation with other countries—with Russia above all—in the military sphere is once again thrown into sharp relief. This is the very reason why I always advocated Belorussia's subscribing to the CIS Collective Security Treaty.

And yet, despite the considerable difficulties, I hope that we will succeed in maintaining the combat potential of the Belorusian Armed Forces at the proper level. Even under the present complex conditions we have not allowed the curtailment of the training process in the armed forces. Measures are being taken to enhance the prestige of military service and servicemen's social protection. Work has begun on creating a military academy in the interests of resolving the Army's personnel problems.

[Kovalev] But approximately 25,000 servicemen of Russia's Strategic Forces are also stationed on the Republic's territory....

[Hryb] I am sure that Russian officers and soldiers do not feel out of place on Belorusian soil. None of us will ever call them occupiers. Incidentally, we are not raising the question of an accelerated Russian troop withdrawal—here everything is proceeding according to the agreed schedule, with due regard for the wishes of the Russian side. The Belorusian Ministry of Defense has established good, comradely ties with colleagues in the Russian military department. I hope that this will continue to be the case.

I would like to take this opportunity to send very best wishes to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's readers and to the editorial collective. Your newspaper seeks to provide objective and balanced coverage of events occurring in our Republic and in its Armed Forces. This is valued highly nowadays.

Economic Union Documents Signed With Russia

LD1304220394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1752 GMT 13 Apr 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovsk.y, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] The heads of Belarusian and Russian Governments signed a package of eight documents Tuesday [12 April] leading to the setting up of a monetary union of the two countries. The most important of them is the treaty on the merger of their monetary systems and on the functioning of the joint monetary system.

Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich told journalists that the treaty did not infringe on the interests of either country. He emphasized that it was a treaty of equal partners.

Kebich admitted that the National Bank of Belarus did not quite approve of the documents. One of the articles of the treaty is inconsistent with the country's Constitution saying that only the National Bank had the right to print money and issue credits. Kebich said that this article would be amended accordingly.

Kebich said that if two-thirds of the Belarusian parliament did not approve the Moscow agreements, the government might call a referendum on the issue. In his words, the signing of the package marked the end of a marathon.

IF Note: Kebich wants the referendum to be held simultaneously with the June 23 presidential elections. He told INTERFAX that, according to sociological polls, a majority of the country's population supported a monetary union with Russia. Kebich is said to stand a good chance of winning the presidential race.

A high ranking government expert told INTERFAX that the treaty would have a significant impact on the presidential elections. He thought that the attitude towards the merger of the monetary systems would be the dividing line in the elections. He thought that a favorable political environment was necessary for the merger.

The expert did not rule out the possibility that in the aftermath of the presidential elections the new political leaders of Belarus would make a political statement on the merger.

IF Note: The merger will proceed in stages. At the first stage which would start on 1 May 1994 Russia will lift customs duties in trading with Belarus. Minsk will reciprocate with lifting the payment of all kinds of transit duties on Russian goods and will let Russia use strategic military bases on Belarusian soil. At the second stage, which is expected to start after the presidential elections in Belarus, the assets and liabilities of the Central Banks of Russia (CBR) and the National Bank of Belarus will be merged. Only the CBR will operate as a bank of issuance. Within certain limits Belarusian citizens will be able to exchange the national currency for Russian rubles.

NATO Strikes on Serbs 'Flagrant Aggression'

WS1304181894 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1512 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] The chairman of the Popular Movement of Belarus [NDB], Syarhey Haydukevich, has publicized a statement relating to the NATO air attacks on Serbian positions in the area of Gorazde. The statement reads: "The Popular Movement is indignant at the flagrant

aggression launched by the U.S. military against fraternal Slavic Serbia under the UN banner. We lodge a resolute protest against this action, which threatens the entire world with catastrophe." The NDB demands a stop to "the destruction of the proud and fraternal-to-us Serbian people," as well as lifting of the economic blockade on the Socialist [as received] Federative Republic of Yugoslavia, which brings about "incalculable losses to Belarusian economy and trade." The NDB also demands that the Belarusian Government establish diplomatic relations with the Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia, and that Belarusian representatives to the United Nations introduce a resolution banning the use of armed forces in crisis spots around the world.

Agrarian Bloc Nominates Dubko Presidential Candidate

WS1304160194 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1320 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] The Agrarian Bloc—which includes the United Agrarian Democratic Party of Belarus, the Agrarian Union [Sayuz Ahrarnikaw], the Council of Collective Farms [Savet Kalhasaw], and the Republican Committee of the Trade Union of Agro-Industrial Workers—has resolved to put forward Alyaksandr Dubko, chairman of the Agrarian Union and the Council of Collective Farms, as a candidate for president. A. Dubko is also manager of the agricultural enterprise "Prahres" in Grodno Oblast.

Official Presents, Analyzes Data on Price Increases

WS1304161994 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0525 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Interview with Alyaksandr Pawlavich Hretski, deputy chairman of the Department of Prices, by unidentified reporter; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Now I will speak about the issue which concerns us all. This key issue is prices for products. We would like them to drop, especially at the time when [words indistinct] the minimum wage grew twice, including some other payments from the state budget. However, prices for agricultural products do not even compensate for production costs. This is the subject of our talk with Alyaksandr Pawlavich Hretski, deputy chairman of the Department of Prices.

[Hretski] Since January 1992, all industrial output, public works and services have been issued to the agricultural sector free of charge. These prices are constantly growing. First and foremost, this is connected with our Republic using enormous amounts of gas, electricity, oil, metal, grain, and other raw materials which are being chiefly imported from Russia and other states. Naturally, (?we) cannot set the prices for these products. For example, in 1993, the price for one tonne of oil increased from 27,500 rubles [R] to R450,000; of 1,000 cubic meters of natural gas—from R16,600 to R116,700; and of one tonne of grain—from R96,000 to some R2 million. As a result, the 1993 index of price increases for material and technical resources consumed by the agricultural sector stood at 3,776 percent. Prices for mineral fertilizers increased by 3,928 percent, electricity—by 9,211 percent, fuel—by 3,554 percent, and wheeled tractors—by 3,381 percent. As for agricultural produce being sold at prices set by the Ministry of Agriculture and Foodstuffs, their level increased by only 1,229 percent in 1993, representing 178 percent of the nonparity of prices [nieparitet tsen] or R964.6 billion.

[Reporter] The government is doing everything to protect the population.

[Hretski] The government adopted a range of measures aimed at improving this situation in 1993. These steps include lowering prices for material and technical resources delivered to the agricultural sector. In addition, the agricultural sector was supplied with electricity and oil at lower prices than the industrial sector. Purchase prices were regularly increased. Nevertheless, the results of 1993 show that our agricultural sector did not receive almost R400 billion in compensation. Due to this, the profitability of agricultural production in 1993 stood at only 3.3 percent. The profitability of meat production stood at 4.8 percent, in particular, production of pork at 13.6 percent, beef at 0.7 percent, and poultry at 6.7 percent. Milk profitability was reduced by 6.2 percent. To my regret, this tendency has remained the same this year. As of 1 April 1994, the total sum of price increases for resources that are delivered to the agricultural sector stood at R4.3 trillion. Prices for oil products increased by R1.374 billion. Oil products, mineral fertilizers, and the increase in wages for workers of the agricultural sector account for the biggest proportion of these increases. In this regard, the increase in purchase prices for agricultural products became inevitable. For example, on 6 April, purchase prices for all kinds of meat were increased by 30 percent, for milk—by 40 percent. However, this permitted only R2 trillion in compensation, or 46.3 percent of costs in the agricultural sector. The remaining sum was transferred to crop production and [word indistinct].

[Reporter] This cannot help but affect retail prices.

[Hretski] Of course. Such increases in purchase prices for meat and milk cannot but affect retail prices for products traded at free prices. For example, prices for meat—poultry, beef, pork, sausages—have already increased. Retail prices for dairy products are still untouched. To do this, prices for vodka were raised by R2,000 per bottle. Indeed, we receive complaints from our citizens that it is impossible to buy dairy products because they are being smuggled abroad. In my opinion, the increase in prices for these products with corresponding social protection measures would have been justified.

Summarizing my report, I would like to urge the working collectives of our industrial enterprises to decrease prices for produce, which is being delivered to the agricultural

sector. This will return a hundredfold when we have cheaper agricultural products on our table.

Moldova

Dniester Official Views Relations With Chisinau

AU1304124494 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1800 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Tiraspol BASAPRESS, 12/4/1994—The Chisinau-Tiraspol negotiations reached a new level, one that tries to solve economic problems and avoid political ones, told BASAPRESS Aleksandr Caraman, the vice president of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic. Referring to the 9 April meeting between [Igor] Smirnov and President [Mircea] Snegur, Caraman said that if they had discussed merely political issues, the negotiations could have failed. He also explained that experts of both sides are now elaborating different ways of establishing economic relations between the two banks [of the Dniester River], especially the cooperation between the banking networks, bilateral payment of goods, gas supplies, and so on. The Tiraspol leader also assessed that the ratification by the Chisinau Parliament of the agreement on [Moldova's] joining the CIS will make easier relations between Tiraspol and Chisinau. "The dizziness of independence parades is over. Politicians have understood that survival will be impossible if we stay separate," said Caraman. Referring to the [Ilie] Ilascu case [person held prisoner by the Tiraspol authorities], Caraman declared that his fate is in the hands of the people [certain persons]. "Ilascu or his relatives will have to write a pardon demand. If they do not, even Smirnov cannot have the right to help him," Caraman said.

Snegur To Lead Delegation to CIS Summit

LD1304203094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1744 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] INTERFAX learned that the composition of the Moldovan delegation which will fly to Moscow on 14 April for taking part in the CIS summit was approved in Kishinev [Chisinau] on Wednesday. It is led by President Mircea Snegur. For the first time the delegation includes representatives of power structures of the self-proclaimed Transdniestrian Republic of Moldova.

Sources in Kishinev say that Moldova plans to sign all documents submitted for discussion in Moscow, except those regarding military-political issues. Among them "On the Council of Defense Ministers of the CIS member-states," "On additional measures to stabilize the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border."

Snegur will also sign in Moscow the document on Moldova adhering the decision of the Council of the CIS States to sign the CIS Charter except articles concerning military-political issues.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Cancels Engagements 'on Doctors' Advice'

LD1304141094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1335 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Amangeldy Akhmetalimov, Gennadiy Kulagin]

[Text] Alma-Ata [Almaty], 13 Apr—The Kazakhstan president's press service has indirectly confirmed the fact that Nursultan Nazarbayev is unlikely to attend the Moscow summit of CIS states. Having remarked that Kazakhstan's official delegation is leaving for Moscow tomorrow, the press service specified: President Nazarbayev is taking part in preparing documents for the summit. But in the last few days he cancelled a number of earlier planned events in his difficult working schedule, on doctors' advice.

Not Attending Summit 'for Health Reasons'

LD1404105094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1025 GMT 14 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Amangeldy Akhmetalimov and Gennadiy Kulagin]

[Text] Alma-Ata [Almaty], 14 Apr—Kazakhstan's delegation to the CIS summit left for Moscow today. The delegation is led by Vice President Yerik Asanbayev.

It has already been officially stated that Nursultan Nazarbayev will not be able to attend the summit for health reasons.

Aktyubinsk Official on Nazarbayev Trips to Russia, Japan

LD1304123194 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0400 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Excerpts] Saveliy Timofeyevich Pachin, head of the Aktyubinsk oblast administration, held a news conference yesterday. Sabit Suleymenov, our own correspondent in Aktyubinsk, is in the studio there. [passage omitted]

[Suleymenov] As is known, of late President Nazarbayev has visited the Russian Federation and Japan. These visits were reported in the media. Mr. Pachin accompanied the president on both visits and he touched upon some of the results of these visits. [passage omitted]

Journalists asked many questions because the president has not held a detailed news conference on all these issues yet. We have heard many rumors about this Eurasian union. As far as I understand it, the population is not very optimistic about the feasibility of this idea although the nonindigenous population separated from their historical motherland quite welcome the idea. Ethnic Kazakhs do not welcome the idea at all because we have just liberated ourselves from the old imperial policy. All young states and their indigenous population oppose this idea, because Russia still thinks in terms of the old imperialist policy.

When Mr. Pachin spoke about other agreements discussed with Russians, he went into detail on those issues that concern our oblast. For instance, he met Russian Economy Minister Shokhin and the heads of Orenburg, Chelyabinsk, Samara, and Volgograd oblasts and concluded agreements with them on behalf of the oblast.

For instance, our Aktyubinsk oil production complex delivers its products to Orsk refinery, which poses a great problem. We give our oil away and then cannot get petrol or fuel. Now an agreement is signed. From now on Aktyubinsk will give its oil and get petrol and fuel, which is especially important in view of the spring sowing campaign.

Second, it is an open secret that we have the Kempirsay lithium deposit and mine. We have always worked there together with Russia. Now preliminary work is being done to set up a joint venture with Russia. This rayon also has a coal mine, and another joint venture with Russia is already operational there. Joint Kazakh-Russian coal development will be further invigorated. This is another piece of good news.

As far as the Japanese visit is concerned, the journalists were interested in possibilities of developing Kazakh-Japanese business relations. Of course, these issues have been widely covered in the media, but there are some particularly interesting aspects. The Japanese are investing their capital in all the biggest projects which are currently under way in the republic. [passage omitted] In West Kazakhstan, which is rich in oil, problems of oil prospecting, recovery, and refinery need a great deal of elaboration and the Japanese will participate in building the West Kumkol main pipeline. They will invest in the oil industry in West Kazakhstan, we were told. [passage omitted]

North Atlantic Assembly Delegation Visits Almaty

LD1304161694 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1400 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] At the invitation of the Kazakh Institute of Strategic Research under the president of the republic, a delegation of the North Atlantic Assembly, a parliamentary organization of NATO member-countries, is currently on a visit to Almaty. The delegation is led by the chairman of the subcommittee for economic cooperation and convergence between the East and the West, Zhirardgo. The guests are interested in the progress of the economic reform and privatization in Kazakhstan, development of democracy, foreign and economic policy, and issues relating to the partnership of the republic with NATO member states. The European parliamentarians will meet deputies of the Supreme Kenges, heads of the security council, ministries of

foreign affairs, defense, economy, and justice, the State Property Committee, and the National Bank. They will also visit one of the farm units in Almaty Oblast and the privatized joint stock amalgamation Merey. A round table discussion will be held at the Institute of Strategic Research with participation of its staff and the delegation members.

Siberian Cossacks in Kazakhstan Protest to Nazarbayev

LD1304110094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1007 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] The friendly association of Siberian Cossacks in Kazakhstan has forwarded a protest to President Nursultan Nazarbayev due to the "soft genocide" with respect to the Cossacks living on the territory of this Republic and violation of Russian-speaking population rights pursued by the Kazakh leadership.

The document states that the republic denies the fact of existence of a multi-million Cossack population in Kazakhstan. The arrest of Boris Suprunuyk, one of the leaders of the Russian community in North Kazakhstan who repeatedly spoke against the infringement of the rights of the Russian-speaking population in Kazakhstan was the major premise of this statement.

The document underlined that the Cossacks are ready to hold a dialogue with the authorities regarding the provisions of registration of the Cossack communities and granting an official status of a public organization to Cossacks, however, "the Republic associates the notion Cossacks with separatism."

The statement, in particular, reports that during the celebration of a Moslem holiday in the Cossack villages of Pokatilovka and Topolevka in the Taldy-Kurgan region the Kazakh nationalists destroyed the house of one of the leaders of the Cossacks threatening to cut all Cossacks. The interior forces blocked these populated centers and nobody was allowed to the place of this incident.

In order to learn the details of this incident a delegation of Cossacks headed for these Cossack villages from Taldy-Kurgan, but the employees of the State Road Inspectorate detained them explaining this by the need to verify their documents and then arrested them for 10 days.

On 5 April another 25-strong group of Cossacks again endeavored to go to these Cossack villages in order to investigate the circumstances of this incident. However, they were met by a reinforced militia post and accompanied to the city of Sarkand in the Taldy-Kurgan region. On their way to Sarkand as many as 50 Kazakh nationalists, 20 mounted and 30 foot people made an attempt to seize the bus with the Cossacks. Some of the attackers had hunter guns. The Cossacks were detained in the city, several of them were arrested for seven-10 days and accused of the organization of an unauthorized meeting.

The board of the friendly association and the council of the Atamans of the Siberian Cossacks believe that these actions of the Taldy-Kurgan region's administration deliberately provoke further aggravation of inter-ethnic relations between Russian Cossacks and Kazakhs.

The statement contains a demand to the Kazakh president, as the guarantor of rights and freedoms of the Republic's citizens, to adopt urgent measures in order to prevent any demonstrations of nationalism and lawlessness with respect to Cossacks and to punish the guilty.

Decree on Use of Funds Created by Selling State Shares

LD1304200494 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1600 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] A decree by the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the use of funds received by selling the state block of shares.

With the aim of invigorating the investment policy, deepening the process of privatization, and in accordance with the law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On delegating additional powers to the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan and heads of local administration," I decree:

1. Funds received as a result of selling the state block of shares of the state joint-stock companies should be transferred to their accounts and invested mainly in technical re-equipment and production.

2. With regard to the state joint-stock companies, which are included into the national, state joint-stock companies [as received], and including the holding-type companies funds, which are received as a result of selling the state block of shares, are transferred to their accounts and used mainly for investing in the production and technical re-equipment of those enterprises, which are included in the joint-stock company, and diversifying their activity.

3. The State Committee for State Property is charged with the task of exercising control over the implementation of this decree.

4. The above decree has the force of law and is valid until corresponding amendments are made to the law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "on dismantling and privatizing state ownership."

5. The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Kazakhstan is to submit for consideration by the newly-elected Supreme Council of the Republic of Kazakhstan a draft law "on making amends to the law of the Republic of Kazakhstan on dismantling and privatizing the state ownership."

6. The decree comes into force from the day of its publication.

[Signed] Nursultan Nazarbayev, president of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Kyrgyzstan

Government Adopts Decree on State Property

LD1304175194 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 2300 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] The Government of Kyrgyzstan has adopted a decree on the state and preservation of state property by Kyrgyzstan's industrial works, enterprises, agriculture, and transport. It says: Under the conditions of introducing market reforms and enterprises gaining their economic independence financial discipline has fallen down in the Republic and the number of economic crimes has increased. Ministries and departments are not exercising control over the preservation of state property. Embezzlement, misappropriation, and shortages are [word indistinct] widespread. This is the result of the shortcomings in the work of the city administrations.

With the aim of eliminating these shortcomings, the State Financial Inspectorate under the Government of Kyrgyzstan has been invested with powers to carry out regular checks of the interdepartmental financial control bodies, and the results of the checks are to be submitted for consideration by the government of the Republic.

Parliament Elects Secretariat 12 Apr

LD1304210094 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 2300 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] The 14th session of the Kyrgyz parliament's (?12th) convocation opened today at the government house in Bishkek. It was chaired by Sherimkulov. First, the deputies paid their tribute to the victims of natural calamities. The deputies elected a secretariat consisting of 11 people. The term of office of deputies Fomenko, Yezhov, Sergeyev, and others has been stopped because they have left the Republic. Altogether 323 deputies attended the work of the session, and it intends to examine 20 issues. Deputies Kasymbekov, Saparov, Prime Minister Dzhumagulov, and others spoke in favor of the Euroasian Union and further expansion of economic and political cooperation between the republics of Central Asia. Also under discussion was the need for further deepening agrarian reforms.

Tajikistan

Militants Surround Russian Border Guards

LD1304124494 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 13 Apr 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] INTERFAX has learned that a group of Tajik militants surrounded a convoy of lorries of Russian border guards near the 7th outpost of the Khorogskiy border district, demanding weapons and ammunition. Russian border guards have refused to comply with the demands of the militants and are at present conducting negotiations to end this conflict peacefully.

Conflict Settled

LD1304180394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1623 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe 13 April, TASS—A conflict caused by an incident in the Darvas direction of the Tajik-Afghan border on 12 April, when a detachment of Pamir militants blocked the passage for a Russian motorized convoy, was settled at 1530 local time Wednesday as a result of talks, ITAR-TASS learned from Russian military sources.

This provocation was aimed at seizing ammunition carried by convoy trucks. Russian border guards managed to block both initiators of this action and militants of another group who came to their rescue. As a result of a dialogue which continued for several hours the road was cleared.

According to Russian servicemen, this incident was brought to the notice of the authorities of the Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous region in the hope that they will give an adequate response.

Rakhmonov Favors Strengthening Ties With CIS States

LD1304163094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1356 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Tajikistan leader Emomali Rakhmonov, at the forthcoming Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) summit, plans to propose restoring and strengthening economic ties between Tajikistan and other CIS countries, above all Russia, his aide Saidmurod Pattoyev said.

Pattoyev told INTERFAX on Wednesday that, before the summit, to be held in Moscow, Rakhmonov hopes to meet Russian President Boris Yeltsin to discuss the possibility of Tajikistan's joining the ruble zone and of strengthening the Tajik-Afghan border.

The Tajik leadership hopes to receive assistance to restore and stabilize the Republic's economy, ruined by the civil war, Pattoyev said.

He said Rakhmonov was very interested in Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev's proposal for a Eurasian Union, a community of former Soviet republics closer than the CIS. But the Tajik leader would make no statements on it before he made a detailed study of it, Pattoyev said.

General Says CIS Peacekeeping Forces Need To Stay

LD1304191994 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 13 Apr 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The collective peacekeeping forces in Tajikistan were established in accordance with a decision taken last September by the heads of five CIS states. In October they arrived in Tajikistan. By their very presence in various parts of the Republic, and especially the first joint exercises they held, they have cooled many hotheads who want to change the constitutional order in the Republic by unlawful means and to destabilize the situation. The crime rate has also improved markedly.

Unfortunately not all states that signed the collective security treaty have fulfilled their peacekeeping obligations. The military contingent from Kazakhstan has not arrived in Tajikistan at all. The Kyrgyz force has merely staked out its presence. The mandate of the peacekeeping forces is about to expire. So, what will happen next?

[Begin recording of Colonel General Boris Pyankov, commander in chief of CIS Joint Armed Forces] The need for them to remain here until at least the end of 1994 is obvious because, unfortunately, there are potential forces, groupings, groups, gangs, and formations, certain forces that are striving to breach the peace here, to destabilize the entire situation. [end recording]

Olimov Shows 'Restrained Optimism' Over Tajik Talks

LD1304194394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1734 GMT 13 Apr 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: Reports by diplomatic correspondents Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy, and others]

[Text] Dushanbe demonstrates "satisfaction" with the situation at the negotiations between Tajikistan's leadership and Tajik opposition underway in Moscow. On Tuesday the parties adopted a joint statement on the necessity "to abstain from any actions able to aggravate the negotiating process" and "compiled" the agenda; this fact gives the ground for "a restrained optimism." Tajikistan's Foreign Minister Rashid Olimov voiced this statement in his interview with INTERFAX on Wednesday.

In his words, "the warming-up" has concluded at the negotiations and "the major process" has started. "We hope for a breakthrough. Tajikistan's political leadership shows appropriate good will to solve all issues constructively," said Olimov.

He indicated that Tajikistan's Government "has neither started nor initiated hostilities." "We expect that the armed opposition will demonstrate sound sense and will respond to good will," said Olimov.

As he said, three major problems are covered in the coordinated agenda of the negotiations. "These are cessation of hostilities, granting of an additional impulse to the repatriation of refugees, and participation of all 'Tajiks' in the constitutional process within the Republic irrespective of their political adherences. We hope for a constructive talk of these partners on these issues. Further negotiations will be devoted to this," said Olimov.

He disagreed with the opinion that the delegations of the parties at the negotiations in Moscow "are inappropriately represented." "In any case, Tajikistan's governmental delegation has all necessary authorities and its composition corresponds to the frameworks of the preliminary agreements. As far as the opposition's delegation is concerned, it will participate in the negotiations in a reduced composition," said Olimov.

At the same time he underlined that "it is not so important for Tajikistan's leadership who sits opposite but how the responsibility for the reached results will be implemented." "We do not need negotiations for the sake of negotiations. The main thing is that Tajikistan's citizens should feel themselves secure," stressed Olimov.

Olimov highly appreciated activity of the Russian Foreign Ministry and of the special representative of the UN General Secretary Ramiro Piriz-Ballon in establishing the inter-Tajik dialogue. "As the hostess of the first round of the negotiations Russia has done its utmost so that they would be held in the atmosphere of constructiveness and the search for mutually acceptable decisions," said Olimov.

As he said, it's early to speak about the time and place of the next round of the negotiations.

Supreme Council Decree on Status of Republican Papers

LD1304161194 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] The presidium of the Tajik Supreme Council has issued a decree on JUMHURIYAT, NARODNAYA GAZETA, and KHALQ OVOZI republican newspapers.

The decree says that taking into account the repeated appeals of the labor teams of JUMHURIYAT, NARODNAYA GAZETA, and KHALQ OVOZI newspapers on changing the status of these publications, the presidium of the Tajik Supreme Council decrees:

1. To approve the initiative of the labor teams of JUMHURIYAT, NARODNAYA GAZETA, and KHALQ OVOZI newspapers on becoming the Tajik Supreme Council and Council of Ministers again as the founders of the above-mentioned newspapers.

2. To determine that the editor in chiefs of these publications would be appointed by proposal of the Tajik

Council of Ministers at the session of the Tajik Supreme Council and deputy editor in chiefs and members of the editorial boards of these publications would be appointed by the proposal of the Tajik Council of Ministers at the sittings of the presidium of the Tajik Supreme Council.

[Signed] Emomali Rakhmonov, chairman of the Tajik Supreme Council

Turkmenistan

Oil, Gas Ministry Says Supplies to Azerbaijan Resumed

LD1304163194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1356 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Turkmenistan has resumed gas supplies to Azerbaijan, which were suspended on 8 April, INTERFAX was told by the Turkmen Oil and Gas Ministry.

Turkmenistan did so after it received from Baku assurances that it was prepared to renew within 10 days clearing shipments against its gas debts. Azerbaijan owes Turkmenistan about $74 Mn [million].

President Niyazov Interviewed on Role of CIS

LD1304170594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1558 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Glazovskaya]

[Text] Ashgabat 13 April, TASS—President Saparmurad Niyazov of Turkmenistan reiterated that he viewed the functional status of the Commonwealth of Independent States as that of a coordinating and consultative body. This view will determine the Turkmen delegation's attitude towards all items on the agenda of the upcoming CIS summit in Moscow, Niyazov told the Republic's government last night.

In today's exclusive interview with TASS, the Turkmen president detailed his approach to the problem of CIS functioning, ruling out the possibility of any subnational ruling body. "I am strongly convinced that any alliance of states is possible only on a voluntary basis, with economic autonomy of member-countries preserved," Niyazov noted. "However, this cannot happen overnight but calls for a certain period of time which is not to be speeded up by various utopian conceptions," he emphasised.

The Turkmen leader believes that some advance movement towards a new model of the Commonwealth does exist, irrespective of the will of all sorts of politicians who "invent new slogans instead of going ahead with a laborious negotiating process." Recently, in particular at the latest CIS summit in Ashgabat, decisions of great importance were made, which are to give a concrete shape to the alliance and to pave the way for further advance movement, Niyazov stressed.

Collective decisionmaking and implementation of these decisions is "alpha and omega of the CIS," according to the Turkmen president.

For further development of the CIS as a new international community, member-states should gradually and patiently move towards civilized relations and to search for variants acceptable to everybody.

Uzbekistan

Russian Bank Notes Cease To Be Legal Tender 15 Apr

LD1304172394 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Video report by Shakhnoza Ganiyeva; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] The news from Tashkent is connected with bank notes:

[Ganiyeva] A new decision by the cabinet has been published in Uzbekistan. The decision stipulates that bank notes issued by the Central Bank of Russia will no longer be accepted for any form of payment anywhere in the Republic from 15 April onward. However, commercial organizations and enterprises, as well as private individuals, will be allowed to sell goods and services for freely convertible currency. Exchange rates between the sum coupon, the national currency, and foreign currencies will be fixed in regular auctions at the Uzbek currency exchange, bearing in mind the need to maintain parity between prices on the domestic and foreign markets.

In order to establish a gold and hard currency reserve in the country, all enterprises, irrespective of their form of ownership, will now be obliged to sell the Central Bank 30 percent of their hard currency earnings. From 1 May, all Uzbekistan's settlements with CIS countries will be transacted solely through clearing or in freely convertible currency.

Armenia

Karabakh Statement 'Reserves Right To Retaliate'

NC1304121494 Yerevan SNARK in English 0804 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Stepanakert, April 13 (SNARK)—In connection with latest bombardments of the Karabakh towns and villages the Government of Nagorno-Karabakh made today an official statement.

The statement says that with the connivance of the world community the Azerbaijani authorities go on with the war against the civil population of Nagorno-Karabakh.

This morning, the statement mentions, the Azerbaijani war planes again and again bombed the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh - Stepanakert. As a result of bombardment there are victims, the houses were ruined. The war planes also bombed the other settlements of Nagorno-Karabakh. Victims also reported.

Azerbaijani military aircraft is going on with barbarous bombardments. Meanwhile the Azerbaijani leader Geydar Aliyev makes cynic appeals to the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh to stop the bloodshed assuring the security for the Karabakh Armenians. Twice in a period of three days the Azerbaijani war planes bombed the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh—the Azerbaijani authorities showed the real truth of their false statements.

The document the Karabakh Government issued states the Karabakh authorities made the Karabakh troops undertake all the measures to defend the civil population. Besides, the Karabakh side reserves the right to retaliate.

The document says the Azerbaijani side is responsible for the escalation of the tension in the region.

Azeri Attacks Reported, Warplane Said Shot Down

NC1304190794 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Despite substantial losses in men and materiel, the Azerbaijani Army subunits are not desisting from attempts to break through the defensive line of the Karabakh forces north and northeast of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR].

NKR Army headquarters has reported that the Azerbaijani formations, supported by air power and armored cars, have been attacking Karabakh positions in Mardakertskiy Rayon since this morning.

In repulsing all the enemy attacks, the Karabakh forces launched counterattacks in certain sectors of the front and occupied a number of advantageous positions.

The NKR air defense forces shot down an Azerbaijani attack plane during the battles. Details are being determined.

After getting reinforcements, the Azerbaijani troops launched an offensive against Agdam on the same day. However, they were forced to withdraw to their initial positions after suffering losses.

Having failed on the fronts, the Azerbaijani Army has again chosen to launch air attacks against the peaceful settlements of the Republic. The Azerbaijani Air Force dropped bombs on the residential quarters of the capital of the NKR at 0635 this morning. Five residents were killed and nine were injured during the raid, mostly women and children.

Frederick (Doneli) and Henri [last name indistinct] from the French state television and two independent reporters [names indistinct] from the United States, who (?were) in the city, are ready to confirm the bombing of Stepanakert.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev Addresses Nation on Progress of War

NC1304123294 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1517 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Address to nation by Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev; place not given—live, broadcast in progress]

[Text] Vladimir Kazimirov [Russian envoy to the Karabakh talks] visited Baku and held talks with us and presented a new draft agreement to us. After discussing this draft, we gave our own proposals and views and indicated that in principle we are inclined to sign such an agreement, provided that our proposals and conditions are accepted. After that Kazimirov was to visit Yerevan and hold talks there. We are still waiting for the result of these talks.

Despite all this, Armenia's armed forces have resumed attacks on our positions and on Azerbaijani territory in recent days. A large Armenian force heavily attacked Geranboyskiy [Shaumyanovskiy] Rayon early on the morning of 10 April, and attempted to take Gulistan and Talish. Bloody battles took place. Azerbaijani Army units gave them a deserving reply. In this clash both the Armenian side and our armed forces suffered casualties. Though the Armenian Armed Forces managed to occupy a few heights there, they failed to achieve their objective. Battles have been continuing in that sector since yesterday.

Armenia's armed forces launched powerful attacks in two directions early yesterday morning—one in Agdere [Mardakertskiy] Rayon and the other in Agdamskiy Rayon. They tried to occupy Matagis and Hakobgamari in Agdere. They also launched three powerful successive attacks in Agdamskiy Rayon yesterday. As is known, the city of Agdam is under Armenian occupation, but our

armed forces control a part of the rayon, and our citizens are living in the towns there. These cities were also subjected to shelling and the military headquarters there came under fire. Despite all this, our armed forces gave a deserving reply to the Armenian Armed Forces on this front too. The fighting is continuing, and will probably continue all day. In fact, having reinforced its forces, the Armenians resumed their attacks in these directions and in Geranboyskiy Rayon.

This marks a new stage in Armenia's aggression. It appears that having taken advantage of the recent cease-fire, the Armenian Armed Forces have regrouped and have brought in forces from every corner of Armenia—and I can state this with utmost certainty—to this region and are launching attacks. This shows they have not ceased their aggressive actions, but continue striving to seize additional Azerbaijani territory in pursuit of their occupationist aims.

I am pleased to inform the Azerbaijani citizens that Azerbaijani Army units are waging bloody battles on all these fronts, strongly resisting the enemy, dealing powerful blows to the Armenian Armed Forces, and reliably defending their own positions. For example, the powerful three-pronged attacks in Agdamskiy Rayon yesterday were checked. Our fighters were martyred there; 21 were martyred, and 46 were wounded. Twelve of the martyrs were from the battalion formed in Sumgait. The battalion commander Elmar Edilov, a resident of Agdam who has been fighting there for the last two years, died heroically, and the deputy commander was gravely wounded. Undaunted by this our Army units, were continuing to counter the Armenian attacks, and defend their positions.

About 23 or 24 were killed or wounded in Agdere region, and there are also casualties in Geranboyskiy Rayon.

As I address all Azerbaijani citizens today, I bow my head to honor the heroism of our sons and fellow citizens who heroically died in recent days while defending their homeland, and giving a deserving reply to the enemy. I express my condolences to the families of all the Azerbaijani sons martyred for the homeland. The martyrs' heroism will forever live in our hearts. May God bless their souls.

During the bloody battles over the past three days, Azerbaijan's heroic fighters and armed groups have inflicted major blows to the Armenian armed formations that have launched a new offensive against the Azerbaijani territory. Now, I do not want to cite detailed figures, and there is no need to do so. However, the Azerbaijani citizens should know that in those regions—and I already gave our side's losses—the Armenian Armed Forces' losses are much greater than ours, both in terms of men and material. For example, during the fighting in Agdamskiy Rayon yesterday, four Armenian tanks and a number of infantry fighting vehicles were destroyed, and they lost many military vehicles in other regions as well. Their casualties were particularly high, including officers. We know this for a fact.

I want to emphasize that while dying for the homeland, our soldiers, officers, and fighters are also inflicting powerful blows to the enemy. Before I came to the television studio today, I contacted the fronts, and our soldiers and commanders informed me that they are firmly defending our positions, and are repulsing the enemy, and assured me that they will not surrender any territory to them. However, the fighting continues, and I expect the Armenian Armed Forces to make a major redeployment of forces from all over Armenia to our fronts, after which they will resume their attacks.

We are experiencing a serious situation. However, these grave days have become normal under the present conditions. Azerbaijani territory has been the victim of Armenian aggression for the last six years, and we have no other alternative. As I said at the beginning of my statement, our real aim is to put an end to the war through peaceful means. Regrettably the Armenian Armed Forces, the Armenian aggressors, and the aggressive circles in Armenia are not willing to follow this path. When they are participating in peace talks they ostensibly claim to favor peace; but, when it comes to action, they again reveal their true faces, as in these past three days.

By television and radio, I now convey my sincere greetings to our fighters, soldiers, officers, and the all citizens at the front who are defending our lands. I congratulate them for standing firm in the defense of our land and express my gratitude to them. I want to say that I am sure that they will continue to reliably defend our lands and will give the Armenian Armed Forces the response they deserve, hit them hard, and prevent them from (?regrouping).

At the same time, an analysis of the present developments once again shows that we must further strengthen our defense against Armenian aggression. More attention must be paid to forming Army units.

As you know, during 9 to 11 April I visited all along the front, saw various units, and met with our soldiers, officers, and commanders. All of them are defending our territory with high morale. However, I also feel that there are shortcomings in our Army, which must be further strengthened and even better organized. Therefore, the entire population, all the citizens of Azerbaijan, and each person should work to further strengthen the Army. The events of the last three days once again show that we have no other alternative.

Therefore, today I am calling on all the Azerbaijani people: I want you all realize that our republic is in danger. Each person should do his part in strengthening the Army and of our defenses. From this point of view, the recent slackened Army call up seriously disturbs me, and I believe it will disturb every patriotic Azerbaijani. Of late there has been an increase in desertions. Desertion is treason against the people and homeland. Evading

the mobilization is treason against the people and homeland. Therefore, I once again call on the deserters and draft dodgers to return to the true path. I want to tell them what they are doing will not benefit them. I want to tell the families and friends of the young deserters and draft dodgers: You too bear responsibility for the desertion of your sons and relatives. Azerbaijan is the homeland of all of us. Everybody, each citizen, must guard the homeland. When the soldiers and officers are standing guard at the fronts, bleeding and dying, those citizens who cannot go to the fronts must contribute at their own work places and should send their eligible sons, grandsons, and brothers to the fronts. They must send them to serve in the Army; there is no other alternative, there can be no other way.

Therefore, I once again call on the Azerbaijani citizens and people: Come, let us all join forces and rise in defense of the motherland. Let no one think that if the Armenian Armed Forces again achieve victory and advance in some region it will benefit anyone. It will bring no benefits to anyone. It will only be a new blow to the Azerbaijani people; it will be another blow to the Azerbaijan Republic and its independence. Let no one think that he is absolved of this responsibility, or that he will attain his personal goals with such a defeat. No. God will (?punish) them. I trust in our people's common sense and I appeal to them in the hope that each Azerbaijani, each citizen, will arise and follow our just path and refrain from taking the path of treason against the people, the path of worsening Azerbaijan's present grave situation.

I hope that the majority of our citizens, the Azerbaijani people, stand and will continue to stand fast in defense of the homeland. I want to assure our people that our army, our soldiers, officers, and fighters at the front are reliably defending our lands and that the current Armenian attacks will be repulsed.

In this regard I want to address recent rumors. As you know, rumors as such are not worthy of my attention. However, sometimes a rumor spread by one person creates confusion in society and harms our work. In connection with recent developments, there are rumors that the Armenian Armed Forces are going to capture this or that place and that people should flee from such places, from Terter, for instance; or that incidents will take place in Ganja. These rumors only serve the enemy, and those responsible for them are the enemies of the Azerbaijani people and traitors.

Let them know that their efforts are in vain. Our people are now aware. Regrettably, there are even some officials circulating such rumors. They disgust me, and I hope that our people feel the same. I want to assure the people that no one should worry, for our land is being reliably defended, and the Armenian attacks are being repulsed. Let no one worry, let no one leave his post.

In connection with recent developments, I also call on the Azerbaijani citizens of Armenian origin living in Daghlyk [Nagorno]-Karabakh. They are citizens of the Azerbaijani Republic; they cannot be citizens of another republic or state, because they are living on Azerbaijani territory. I believe that most of them are now experiencing great hardships.

The Armenian soldiers taken prisoner during recent fighting, and even during their previous blitz, have revealed during interrogation that they are being brought to the front by force—they push them under duress, they force them to fight. We even found out that when they try to retreat, they are punished and shot in the back; they are forced to fight at gun point. What these prisoners say shows that the soldiers from Daghlyk-Karabakh, and most of the Armenian ones too, are brought here by force. For example, an Armenian soldier taken prisoner in Geranboyskiy Rayon yesterday said that most of their troops had been released from prison. These convicts were released and told if they obeyed orders they would be pardoned. Even the people coming from Yerevan, Leninakan [Gyumri], and Edzhmiatsin, and other regions of Armenia indicate that they were forced to come here. This is learned from POW statements.

However, I am specifically addressing the Armenians living in Daghlyk-Karabakh who are citizens of Azerbaijan. You should realize that you too have been in a bad situation for the last six years. You too are tormented, and have suffered many losses. Your houses and cities have been destroyed and your living conditions have deteriorated beyond belief. What is it that you want? You too are being killed in this fighting and are sustaining losses. Yet, what have you achieved by this? For the last six years, the aggressive and nationalist circles have dragged you, Azerbaijani citizens, you residents of Daghlyk-Karabakh, into a futureless war. You and the Azerbaijanis who used to live in Daghlyk-Karabakh, as well as the Azerbaijanis who are still living around you in Azerbaijan, lived in friendship and happiness for scores of years. You Armenians who have settled in Daghlyk-Karabakh have been there for the past 150 years. Leaving aside a few conflicts during that period, you have always lived with the Azerbaijanis under friendly and happy conditions. Why was such an existence not good enough for you? Why this? Why this bloodshed? Why do you prefer these losses and destruction? Why? Wake up. Realize that there is no end to this war. The aggressive circles will not be able to achieve their objectives, or attain their goals. The Azerbaijani Republic will never give up its own territory. It is not yet too late to cut the losses in half. There is still a chance. It is not too late; renounce this path; pull out of this fight; pull out of this war; and I assure you we will continue to protect you as Azerbaijani citizens, as our own citizens. Your rights will be protected. We will create all the necessary conditions for you to live in safety.

I also call on the citizens of the Armenian Republic, the Armenian people, their leaders, on Armenian President Levon Ter- Petrosyan, the Armenian political parties and their leaders. I want to inform them that this

aggressive policy can lead to no end. You should renounce it. There is no need for us to prove that this war was started by Armenia's aggressive and nationalistic circles and will bring no benefits to the people of Armenia. The Armenian people have also been suffering for the last six years. What do we need this for?

I tried to telephone Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan yesterday and today, but it was not possible; therefore, I am addressing him on television: I call on him to act responsibly, I am calling on all the Armenian leaders to act responsibly for the sake of their own people. In recent fighting, several hundred Armenian troops died or were wounded. Armenia's aggressive circles, the circles continuing this war, are responsible for the deaths of their own citizens. They are shedding this blood, and there is no end to it. I want to state sincerely that we want to put an end to this war. We want to make use of all the opportunities to conduct talks. However, on one condition: The Armenian aggressors, the Armed Forces must leave the Azerbaijani lands, the Azerbaijan Republic's territorial integrity must be guaranteed, and the inviolability of the Azerbaijan Republic must be ensured.

Therefore, having analyzed the results of the past three days, I reiterate that we are for peace, not because such aggression and attacks frighten us, but because we do not want bloodshed.

It is known to the world that the Azerbaijani Republic is suffering from Armenian aggression, that more than 20 percent of our territory is occupied by Armenian Armed Forces. Therefore, we are not the occupiers, we are merely waging a just war and are defending our own territory, citizens and homeland.

In calling upon the world community, international organizations, the UN, its Security Council and the leaders of the United States, England, France, Russia, China—who are permanent members of the Security Council—I call on them to take effective measures to stop the Armenian aggression.

We have accepted the Russian mediation initiative and tried to benefit from this initiative, but regrettably, despite months of talks, no results have been achieved. I hope that a great country like Russia—which has close friendly relations with both Azerbaijan and Armenia, a state with great worldwide influence, a member of the UN Security Council—will play its role in this region.

I also call on the CSCE and members of the Minsk Group to be more active. I call upon Azerbaijan's neighboring states, namely Turkey, Iran, and Georgia: I believe that being neighbors with both Azerbaijan and Armenia, they should not remain on the sidelines of this conflict and should make more effective use of their own possibilities to put an end to this war.

I also want to point out that the timing of the Armenian Armed Forces' attacks against Azerbaijani territory and our military positions for the past three days is not a mere coincidence. Some time ago—perhaps a month ago—the CSCE Minsk Group's new chairman, Ian Eliason, came to Azerbaijan and Armenia with a large delegation and held talks on the need to further strengthen the Minsk Group.

Minsk Group's debates on Daghlyk-Karabakh resumed in Prague on 11 April—that is, yesterday. And at this very time, when the representatives of Azerbaijan and Armenia are taking part in that session, the Armenian Armed Forces have launched this strong attack. As you know, the press reported that the CIS leaders will meet in Moscow from 14 to 15 April. Important issues will be discussed there. The Armenian attacks on Azerbaijan on the eve of this meeting have certain aims. It may be that with these attacks they want to pressure the Azerbaijani Republic and its leadership. This in vain; no one can pressure us. We have defended and will continue to defend Azerbaijan's independence. We have fought for our independence at all costs. We have also become a member of the CIS. We were greatly saddened when the Armenian attack began, even though we are a member of the CIS and were getting ready to go to Moscow.

Taking all these things into consideration, I also appeal to the CIS and its leaders, declaring once again that there should be no more war between CIS member countries, for such a thing is abnormal and it must cease. I particularly address Russia, which has a special and influential place in the CIS, and Russia's leaders: An end must be put these events. Russia has the means to peacefully resolve these problems. I hope that they will make use of these means, as they should.

I hope that my calls will not go unnoticed, and will be duly received by the international community. With trust and confidence in the international community, international organizations and international norms, I am conveying my views to them through television and radio.

To once again refer to the domestic life of our own republic I once again call on all Azerbaijani citizens, political groups and forces: I want to state that everyone should serve one objective during these grave days for our republic: to ensure the security of the Azerbaijani Republic, help it to survive the present grave war situation, and guarantee its territorial integrity. We must all unite on this path, and walk together along this path. If anyone tries to take advantage of this grave situation for their own loathsome purposes they should realize that they are bound to fail. There are such forces in Azerbaijan; and such intentions are also fostered by forces outside Azerbaijan, which are now active. They all should realize that they will not be able to attain their loathsome objectives.

I trust in the Azerbaijani people's (?maturity), (?alertness), and bravery; and I am sure that we will successfully overcome these trials and will defend our land and give a fitting response to all the aggressive forces.

I again call on our soldiers, officers, and fighters at the front: You are defending your homeland and native soil. You are serving sacred goals. Your service will always be appreciated by the people, society, and state.

Because a part of my statement was addressed to neighboring countries, I will now repeat the gist of my statement in Russian. This is because I want the leaders of these states to hear this from me in person today.

Aliyev Address to Nation Rebroadcast 13 Apr

NC1304200494 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1645 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Rebroadcast of Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev's address to nation on 12 April—recorded]

[Excerpt] Esteemed compatriots, sisters and brothers, citizens of the Azerbaijani Republic, the intensification of Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan in recent days, and the situation engendered by the escalation of the Armenian Armed Forces' attacks against Azerbaijani land forced me to come to the Azerbaijani television station tonight. My aim is to inform you on the prevailing situation and to express some of my views on this situation.

As you know, the Azerbaijani state and its leadership aim at putting an end to the ongoing war between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and for this purpose is trying to achieve a certain agreement by holding peace talks. We have taken many steps in this direction. We are always trying to make use of the possibilities of the international organizations. We accept the big powers' initiatives and try to benefit from them. We have established contacts with the Armenian Republic and are holding talks with them. Recently we accepted the mediation initiative of the Russian state, and through the Russian Foreign and Defense Ministries we have given our consent to a certain agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

I do not intend now to analyze all the processes in recent months for you. However, I want to single out some facts. As you know, during the CIS meeting in Ashgabat on 24 December last year, I met with Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and held detailed talks with him and made proposals to end the ongoing war between Azerbaijan and Armenia. We held a broad exchange of views. At that very same CIS meeting, I made an extensive statement on Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan over the last few years, invited the CIS leaders to intervene in this problem, and declared that war between the CIS states is abnormal and that therefore the head of each state should express his own stance on this matter. Later on, the Russian Foreign Ministry became active. We received the representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry on various occasions, examined different draft agreements, submitted our proposals, and tried to achieve an agreement by making certain compromises. However, even these did not produce any results. Finally, the defense ministers of Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Russia met in Moscow on 18 February and a protocol was signed between Armenia and Azerbaijan on a cease-fire and holding peace talks. We also accepted this for the simple reason that we have always worked, and are still working, for the peaceful resolution of the conflict. According to that protocol, the cease-fire in the Karabakh zone and on all the fronts was to go into effect between Azerbaijan and Armenia as of 1 March. This was to be followed by talks, the withdrawal of Armenia's Armed Forces from the occupied Azerbaijani lands, and a major agreement. However, the Armenian side undermined even this agreement. It started to launch constant attacks against our positions as of 2 March. Thus, this agreement also produced no result. The chairmen of the Azerbaijani and Armenian parliaments met in Kazakh on 12 March. They held talks. We were hoping that these agreements would produce a result. However, later on the Armenian side did not abide by these agreements and continued with its attacks against the Azerbaijani lands and Army positions. These attacks by Armenia's Armed Forces continued until the end of March. However, I can state with great satisfaction and pride that the Azerbaijani Army, Army units, our military units and fighters have checked all these attacks and Armenia's Armed Forces suffered enormous losses and were forced to withdraw without achieving anything in Fizulinskiy Rayon, against which they had mostly directed their attacks.

Despite all this, we continued favoring peace talks, and almost a week ago Vladimir Kazimirov, the Russian Foreign Ministry's representative, plenipotentiary ambassador, and the representative of the Russian president, visited Baku and held talks with us and presented us with a new draft agreement. [passage omitted]

Gasanov Briefs Ambassadors on Armenian Attacks

NC1404073694 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov held a meeting with ambassadors accredited to our republic in connection with the latest intensification of the Armenian attacks. Our colleague Menzere Sadiqova reports:

[Sadiqova] At a meeting in Baku with the representatives of the embassies and missions of 15 countries and the UN, as well international organizations such as the Red Cross and Doctors Without Borders, Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov gave a briefing on the extraordinary situation that has emerged at the fronts. In this context he referred to the Azerbaijan president's televised address yesterday and touched upon the new positions set out in that address.

Gasan Gasanov noted that the new wave of powerful Armenian attacks above all results from the impunity enjoyed by the Armenian Republic. The countries of the world have so far not imposed any military, political,

economic, or even the least moral sanctions against the Armenian aggressors, who have been occupying Azerbaijani territory for the past six years. Instead, the Armenian Republic receives both arms and humanitarian assistance from abroad.

The minister pointed out that giving humanitarian assistance to an aggressor state is an unprecedented event in international practice. The Armenian Republic is the first state ever to receive humanitarian assistance from foreign countries while engaging in military aggression. In an attempt to mislead the international community, the Armenian leaders often assert that the war is being waged by Daghlyk-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabakh]. If so, which country or countries are providing the most modern weapons, heavy artillery, and fuel to Daghlyk-Karabakh? In refutation of this duplicitous Armenian policy, the Azerbaijani foreign minister produced substantial proof. Speaking to the international community, he firmly condemned attempts by certain forces to force Azerbaijan to its knees and noted that history has repeatedly shown that it is not possible to suppress the people's will.

Noting that foreign countries have adopted a passive stance toward the aggression of the Armenian Republic and its occupation of more than 20 percent of Azerbaijani territory, Gasan Gasanov explained that the intensification of the Armenian attacks is linked to the end of winter. If we recall the events of the last three or four years, we see that Armenia has usually seized Azerbaijani territory between April and September.

In an all-around assessment of the Azerbaijani president's televised address, Gasan Gasanov once again clarified our state's peace-loving position regarding the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict. Referring to yesterday's presidential address, he emphasized that if the war is ended we will unconditionally guarantee the security of the Armenian population of Daghlyk-Karabakh.

After Gasanov's statement, the diplomats were invited to ask questions, but none of them wanted to ask anything or make a statement, because the situation in our republic is well known to foreign diplomats.

Relevant documents were distributed to the guests after the meeting. We hope that these foreign diplomats will report back to their countries on the issues raised today during the Azerbaijani foreign minister's meeting with them, and that when the international community gets this objective information on the real situation in Azerbaijan it will finally move to restrain the aggressor Armenian state. For this to happen, the efforts of the foreign diplomats must coincide with the political interests of the countries they represent.

Gasan Gasanov held a news conference today on the subjects discussed at the meeting. He noted that the big powers' failure to brand Armenia as an aggressor and the free hand given them as a result has been encouraging the Armenians, who have the impression that they can achieve their goals sooner if they occupy more Azerbaijani territory. Having disregarded the peace-making efforts of prestigious international organizations and (?various) groups, the Armenians—who usually have military successes during summer—have now launched a new campaign of aggression. We must use all our diplomatic means and sanctions should be implemented to halt the aggressor.

It became obvious at the news conference that the latest attacks have wreaked destruction in Geranboyskiy and Terterskiy Rayons; and in addition to the fighters, civilians have also been harmed.

Gasan Gasanov answered reporters' questions on (?current affairs). Though there were not many reporters, the news conference was held in a lively atmosphere.

Armenian Troops Continue Offensive

LD1304191494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1706 GMT 13 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku April 13 TASS—Armenian troops continued their offensive in the direction of the Terter district of Azerbaijan located several dozen kilometers north of Nagorno-Karabakh on Wednesday.

The Azerbaijani Defence Ministry said that the offensive was preceded by artillery shelling. Armenians are using Grad missile launchers to shell the district centre which has a population of 20,000 people, it said.

The Azerbaijani Army rebuffed the offensive near the town of Gyulistan in the neighbouring Geiraboy district. Armenian troops were reported stepping up activity in the Agdam district.

Earlier today Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh traded charges, accusing each other of continuing the bloody war over the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh. Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov said that the unpunishment of Armenia and its aggressive actions, as well as the passivity of the international community may lead to the occupation of new territories of Azerbaijan and unpredictability of the development of the situation in the region. He said Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev's address to the nation and the world made on republican television on Tuesday testifies to the "constructive position of the republic and its desire to settle the conflict by peaceful means."

"The leadership of Azerbaijan, taking advantage of the connivance of the international community, continues the war against the civilians of Nagorno-Karabakh," a statement issued by the government of Nagorno-Karabakh said on Wednesday.

"Barbaric bombing of towns and villages is accompanied by cynical televised addresses by Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev to the Armenian population of Karabakh,

urging them to stop the bloodshed and assuring them of (Azerbaijan's) readiness to ensure their safety," the statement said. Nagorno-Karabakh leaders warned they will reserve the right to take adequate measures against Azerbaijani towns, adding that all responsibility will rest with the Azerbaijani side.

Attacks in Three Rayons Detailed

NC1304190194 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 13 Apr 94

["Defense Ministry press service report"—read by announcer]

[Text] The Armenian Army's offensive against Geranboyskiy [Shaumyanovskiy], Terterskiy, and Agdamskiy Rayons have been continuing for the last four days. Our units fighting in Geranboyskiy Rayon last night and in the early morning of 13 April succeeded in inflicting heavy blows on the enemy, in ousting the enemy from Gulistan in Geranboyskiy Rayon and from Talish in Terterskiy Rayon, and in recovering their former positions.

After an artillery barrage at 0600 today, the enemy launched a new offensive against Terterskiy Rayon. The city of Terter is still being shelled by Grad launchers. Zangishaly, Mekhrizli, and Sarydzhaly in Agdamskiy Rayon have been coming under artillery shelling since 0630 this morning. The bloody battles are continuing uninterrupted in the Terterskiy and Agdamskiy sectors of the front. A large number of enemy troops were killed during the fighting.

Minister Denies Azeri Intention To Leave CIS

LD1304155794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1434 GMT 13 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevinc Abdullayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku, 13 Apr—Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Hasan Hasanov branded as fiction media reports to the effect that Azerbaijan will be declaring at the Moscow meeting that it is leaving the CIS. Answering a question from an ITAR-TASS correspondent about the likelihood of such a step, the minister said at a news conference today that "Azerbaijan attaches great importance to the development of all-round contacts with the CIS states, regarding it as a priority in the republic's foreign-policy activities."

Hasan Hasanov told journalists that, at the Moscow summit, "Azerbaijani President Gaydar Aliyev may make a special statement." According to the minister, in the statement "relevant assessments of the current situation in the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict area will be given." A sharp deterioration in it ensued, according to Hasanov, four days ago, "following the latest offensive undertaken by the Armenian armed formations outside Nagorno-Karabakh in the western and southwestern regions of Azerbaijan."

The head of the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry commended Russia's new efforts to resolve the Karabakh problem. Without going into details, the minister merely declared that "Azerbaijan has, in principle, approved the draft agreement on a cessation of hostilities submitted by the Russian side, but has borne in mind its comments and proposals." It was also stressed yet again that the leadership of Azerbaijan holds firm to the view that the conflict can only be resolved by political means.

Offensive Linked to Ter-Petrosyan Moscow Trip

MK1304125094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Apr 94 p 3

[Report by Aydyn Mekhtiyev under the "Azerbaijan" rubric: "Gyandzha Under Threat. Republic's Second-Largest City Threatened by Major Armenian Offensive"]

[Text] According to an Azerbaijan Defense Ministry report, in the past few days Armenian troops have launched a large-scale offensive in northeastern Nagorno-Karabakh, involving a great number of tanks and armored personnel carriers. Although the Defense Ministry still claims that the Azerbaijani troops have been able to withstand the onslaught of the Armenian forces, your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent has learned from confidential sources that the Armenian troops have advanced a few kilometers toward the district capital of Geranboy (Shaumyan—NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA) adjoining the Agderin (Mardakert—NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA) district of Nagorno-Karabakh. It is well known that the Geranboy district, which was recaptured by Azerbaijan in a successful offensive in summer 1992, is strategically important as a town located in direct proximity to Azerbaijan's second-largest city, Gyandzha. The district's possible capture by Armenian troops would, therefore, pose a real threat to Gyandzha.

Observers in Baku point to the fact that the Armenian troops' offensive on the Gyandzha axis was launched right after Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan paid a visit to Moscow 8 April in an atmosphere of strictest secrecy. According to reports from sources in the Azerbaijan leadership, during his talks with Russian leaders Ter-Petrosyan spoke about the possibility of exerting military pressure on Baku so that it will soften its stance on Russia's peace plan for Nagorno-Karabakh. The plan, which, among other things, calls for Russian troops to be brought to Azerbaijan as peacekeeping forces, was spurned by the Baku authorities as violating the republic's sovereignty. In addition, Baku was somewhat worried by Russian President Boris Yeltsin's edict on setting up Russian military bases on the CIS countries' territory. Azerbaijan Defense Minister Mamedrafi Mamedov has stated that "none of external forces will

manage to impose on Azerbaijan the deployment of foreign bases on the republic's territory."

Thus, on the eve of the meeting of the Council of CIS Heads of State, scheduled to take place in Moscow 15 April, a fairly critical situation is coming about in relations between Baku and Yerevan, and a certain tension is felt in Russian-Azerbaijani relations. To all appearances, Azerbaijani leader Geydar Aliyev will try to draw his CIS partners' attention to the stepping up of hostilities on Azerbaijani territory by the Armenian troops.

Georgia

Shevardnadze, Russian Official Discuss Abkhazian Settlement

LD1304220294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1835 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Russia continues to stand for the territorial integrity of Georgia, but believes that the interests of the multi-ethnic population of Abkhazia should be taken into account. The point was made by a personal envoy of the Russian president, Boris Pastukhov, when he returned to Moscow from Tbilisi on Wednesday.

In Tbilisi he was received by the Georgian head of state Eduard Shevardnadze. The two sides discussed the settlement of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict.

Pastukhov told Interfax that the main thing at the present stage is to guarantee a lasting ceasefire and the beginning of the return of refugees because otherwise it is impossible to resolve other problems.

The diplomat said that unfortunately the probability of the resumption of hostilities in Abkhazia is still great. He admitted that there are armed groups in the conflict zone from Russia but not representing Russia as well as from several other countries.

Speaking of the need to send a peace-keeping force to the conflict zone Pastukhov said Moscow would never oppose the deployment of peace-keepers, if the UN Security Council passed an appropriate decision. In his opinion there can be different options, but in any case a peace-keeping operation requires considerable spending.

"It is impossible to uphold peace with bayonets, fundamental agreements are necessary to prevent the resumption of hostilities and they must be observed", Pastukhov emphasized.

Geneva Talks on Peacekeeping Operations Continue

LD1304153494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1325 GMT 13 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Text] Geneva April 13 TASS—U.N. and Russian experts reconvened in Geneva on Wednesday to discuss military aspects of a possible peace-keeping operation in the zone of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict.

The talks attended by representatives of Georgia, Abkhazia, Russia and the United Nations focused on determining the areas for deploying U.N. peace-keepers.

U.N. secretary-general special envoy Edouard Brunner told ITAR- TASS that the U.N. and Russian diplomats are studying proposals made by the Georgian and Abkhazian delegations on Tuesday.

Georgia suggests deploying peace-keepers along the entire perimeter of the war zone, including along the Psou and Inguri rivers, at mountain summits, along the sea coast and at Sukhumi and Bombura airports, as well as in places of location of Russian border troops carrying out radar control of the sea.

It stressed that U.N. troops' aim will be to prevent possible resumption of hostilities and check arms shipments and personnel reinforcements to the war zone.

However, Abkhazia believes that U.N. forces should be placed along the Inguri river dividing the warring sides to disengage them and prevent penetration of troops into the 6-10 kilometer wide demilitarised zone on both sides of the river.

Georgian Interior Ministry Commander Vladimir Chikovani told ITAR-TASS that his delegation disagrees with Abkhazia's proposals. He noted that the deployment of U.N. peace-keepers along the Inguri river will not ensure safe return of refugees because after passing the "corridor" they will find themselves in Abkhazian-controlled territory. In his view, arms supply routes can be blocked only if U.N. troops are placed along the whole perimeter of the war zone.

The talks continue and may take a day longer than was planned. Much will depend on the conclusions and proposals of U.N. and Russian experts. The group has no power to make decisions on deployment of U.N. peace-keeping forces. However, its suggestions will be conveyed to U.N. secretary-general who will then present them to the U.N. Security Council.

Opposition Leader: Shevardnadze 'Mafia's Hostage'

LD1304211594 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1445 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Tbilisi, 12 Apr—In an interview with an IBERIA correspondent, Giorgiy Chanturia, chairman of the Georgian National Democratic Party [NDP], said an analysis of political life in Georgia shows that the forces ruling Georgia, including the head of state, have no

political will. Eduard Shevardnadze only acts as a passive observer of events. As a result, the country's political course keeps changing, swinging from pro-American to pro-Russian and back, which is ruinous for the country.

Giorgiy Chanturia said the head of state was committed to a doomed policy of personnel balancing in the state structures. The notorious incident involving the chief of the Tbilisi police directorate, Davit Zeikidze, was a result of that policy. The two enemies ended up working in the same system—the Interior Ministry.

Giorgiy Chanturia described Shevardnadze's policy as a policy of the past, saying that Shevardnadze had a choice of either being with the mafia or not. Since he lacked political will, he had, in fact, become the mafia's hostage.

On the issue of the opposition, the NDP leader said it had no political will either; however, there were definitely some outstanding figures in it. The West was now relying mostly on three forces in Georgia—the NDP, the Republican Party, and the People's Front, among which, according to Chanturia, the NDP had the priority.

On the South Ossetian problem, Giorgiy Chanturia said the issue was a nuisance for the Georgian parliament, whose deputies were involved primarily in buying property abroad and accumulating wealth at home. The coolness of their attitude towards that issue was demonstrated, for example, by their trust in the quadripartite agreement on the settlement of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict. The Abkhaz side had cheated Georgia before and would do so again, concluded G. Chanturia.

Commission Formed To Reorganize Financial System

LD1304173794 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1446 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] With the aim of drawing up measures to overcome the deep financial crisis in the country, achieving financial stability, and improving the current situation, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Georgia has decreed the creation of a government commission charged with reorganizing the financial system in the Republic of Georgia.

The commission will be chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Temur Basilia and will include the heads of relevant agencies, the National Bank, and the Science Institute.

Estonia

Stricter Border Controls Discussed With Russians

WS1404082994 Tallinn BNS in English 1844 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] TALLINN, Apr 13, BNS—Maj. Aare Evisalu, chief of control center, and Maj. Edgar Aaro, head of service department of the Estonian border guard, met today with Gen. Viktor Kostenko, commander of Russian border guard's Pskov unit, to discuss the strengthening of border regime on the temporary borderline between the two countries and the issue of illegal immigrants, including Kurds.

Evisalu told BNS the two parties agreed in principle on simplifying border crossing regulations for the people living on both sides of the southeast Estonian border.

"We didn't sign any documents, since the decision officially rests with the Estonian and the Russian governments," Evisalu said.

Officials from the Narva cordon of the Estonian border guard and Russia's Ivangorod cordon continue tomorrow talks to resolve the fate of the Kurds detained in Estonia.

"Kostenko agreed that the return of the Kurds to Russia should be solved at border guard, not foreign ministry, level," the Estonian officer said.

Today's meeting also touched on the April 1 incident when two unidentified Russian-speaking assailants killed one and wounded two Russian border guards near the Pechory railway station on the Russian side of the border.

"I asked Kostenko about his opinion on an article in the April 5 issue of the Russian IZVESTIA newspaper, which claimed that the assailants came from and fled to Estonia," Evisalu told BNS. "Kostenko said it was one of the (Russian side's) working hypotheses, which facts haven't corroborated so far, and that the article was a piece of journalistic fantasy."

Parliament Approves Amendments to Ownership Law

WS1404105294 Tallinn ETA in English 0717 GMT 14 Apr 94

[From April 14, EESTI SENUMID, p 1; "News Bulletin" No. 71]

[Text] The Riigikogu [parliament] approved amendments to the law on the basis of the ownership reform. The economic commission merged three draft laws on amendments in one. The amendments concern compensation to bone fide owners who had purchased property to be returned to legal owners and municipalization of state property.

The law on the National Library was approved with 51 votes in favour and 20 against.

The debate of the law on political parties was suspended at the second reading. The law stipulates, among other things, that a party must have at least 200 members to be registered, and that parties represented in the Riigikogu will receive state funding proportional to the number of seats.

The draft law on auxiliary police was referred to the third reading. MP Jaanus Betlem ("Fatherland") pointed out that the rights and responsibility of the auxiliary police officer were not balanced. MP Kristiina Ojuland ("Fatherland") recommended to reject the draft law. Interior Minister Heiki Arike regretted that the disputes started immediately prior to the approval of the law.

A draft law on amendments and additions to the law on the basis of the ownership reform and the law on dwelling-houses reached its first reading; the amendments will guarantee the rights of tenants in a building to be returned to a former owner.

The draft laws on amendments to the law on the use of proceeds of privatisation of state and municipal property, on the state border and others passed their first reading.

Private TV Companies To Use Ostankino TV-Channel

WS1204202194 Tallinn ETA in English 1842 GMT 12 Apr 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Tallinn, April 12—Leaders of two Estonian private TV-companies—EVTV and RTV, Viktor Siilats and Mart Siimann told a press conference on Tuesday [12 April] that an agreement had been concluded between them to use the former Ostankino TV-channel on the basis of equality, and said that broadcasts will be started on April 18.

RTV will have its broadcasting time on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays from 18.00 to 24.00 and RTV on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 17.10-24.00 and on Sunday from 9.00. The leaders said that at the beginning the companies will remain independent corporate bodies, at least till autumn, after which a possible joining can be discussed. At the beginning both companies have their independent programmes with some possible joint programmes.

The two TV-companies had their own TV-channels which, however, did not cover the whole territory of Estonia for technical reasons. After Ostankino TV broadcasts were stopped on March 28 because of a debt of 2.5 million kroons of the Russian TV company to the Estonian Broadcast Transmission Centre, the channel was allocated to RTV and EVTV at their application.

Laar on 'Stringent Measures' Against Inflation

WS1304152294 Tallinn BNS in English 1806 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 12, BNS—The government intends to take stringent measures to put a stop to the rising inflation, including forced bankruptcy of companies that are in arrears with payments into the state coffers, Prime Minister Mart Laar said at a press conference today.

The government hopes to curb inflation by reducing the amount of cash in circulation through calling in debts to the state and by promoting privatization and the development of the stock market in the country, Laar said.

Most debts stem from non-payment of the social and the sick benefit taxes, the premier noted.

The 8.9-percent rise in inflation last month was primarily caused by the local governments' price policy and the jump in the amount of cash in circulation which occurred in the last quarter of 1993, Laar claimed.

The premier voiced the opinion that inflation would have been between 3 and 4 percent in March if only the price hike in foods and manufactured goods were taken into account.

According to the Statistics Department, food prices rose last month by 5.3 percent, and dairy products shot up by as much as 13.3 percent.

If the local governments again put up the rent and public transport rates in April, inflation may not stop, Laar said.

"At a meeting with World Bank representatives yesterday we discussed the problem of inflation and I can say that neither the World Bank nor the International Monetary Fund see any cause for concern in the rising inflation in Estonia," the premier stated.

The inflation rate will probably drop in the second half of the year, Laar said.

Reactor Removal To Prompt Access Restrictions

WS1304152394 Tallinn BNS in English 1607 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 12, BNS—The Estonian Government decided at its session today to establish a special regime in the northwest Estonian Pakri peninsula where Paldiski is situated. The regime will be in force during the dismantling of nuclear reactors at the former Russian naval training center in the town and the removal of nuclear fuel from Estonia.

The safety regulations allow people to enter the peninsula only through special checkpoints and restrict their movement in the territory. People who neither live nor work in the area need special licenses issued either by the Paldiski commandant or the Harjumaa police to enter the peninsula. In case of need, the Interior Ministry is allowed to restrict or entirely close traffic in Pakri.

The government charged the Police Department with stepping up control in the peninsula to find out the people who have no permits for staying in the area.

The Cabinet's order appoints Juri Tikk, special representative of the government in Paldiski, as coordinator of activities of the agencies involved.

Tikk told BNS in an earlier interview the first stage of dismantling the Paldiski reactors, which involves the removal of nuclear fuel from the reactors and from Estonia, would probably begin after April 10. The operation takes place in three stages and will take about three years to complete.

Care Promised in Tracking Border Guard Killers

WS1304152494 Tallinn BNS in English 1607 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 12, BNS—Estonia has done, is doing and will do everything it can to apprehend the men who killed a Russian border guard, Tarmo Kouts, director general of the Border Guard Department, told BNS.

A Russian border guard was shot dead and two wounded on April 1 in a skirmish near the Pechory (Petseri) railway station on the Russian side of the temporary borderline. The two assailants fled.

The tracker dog brought to the scene failed to pick up the assailants' trail, so it is not known whether they came from or fled to Estonia.

The two wounded border guards said the assailants spoke Russian without a foreign accent and claimed to be former Russian servicemen. The shots were fired from a TT pistol.

Kouts said Estonia has done everything it could and everything "Russia asked for" to find the assailants.

"Russia hasn't lately informed us about the results of their investigations, although we know they continue looking for the men," Kouts told BNS. "We've been checking out our own theories, and we've established a certain circle of people we'll go over with a fine-tooth comb."

Official: European Security 'Gap' Needs Closing

WS1404082094 Tallinn BNS in English 1716 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] TALLINN, Apr 13, BNS - Estonia should fill the gap in the European joint security system, Enn Tupp, the head of the Defense Ministry defense policy department, said at a press conference today.

Tupp attached great importance to the adoption of the law on service in the defense forces. He said it's a good law, but that now several lower-level legal acts need to be passed.

The law on peacetime national defense is waiting to be adopted and in May the government will probably pass to the parliament a bill on national defense in wartime, the Defense Ministry official noted. He added that legislation on compulsory duties in wartime, military career, and military police must be adopted.

Under defense policy, a national defense doctrine must be worked out and the share of defense expenditures in the budget established, Tupp told reporters.

Defense Official Sees Withdrawal by 31 Aug

WS1404082194 Tallinn BNS in English 1716 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] TALLINN, Apr 13, BNS—"I believe Russia will withdraw its troops from Estonia by Aug. 31," Enn Tupp, head of the Estonian Defense Ministry defense policy department, told BNS at a press conference today.

Tupp claimed the troop pullout cannot be stopped. Jyri Kork, head of the defense forces general staff information department, added that every week from 30 to 40 Russian military personnel leave Estonia.

The Russian military staying in Estonia are a political toy, just like the Skrunda radar facility in Latvia, Tupp noted.

The Russian delegation to the Estonian-Russian troop withdrawal talks announced April 6 that Russia is not going to pull out its troops from Estonia by the Aug. 31, 1994, deadline. Russia also officially revoked the clause in the draft agreement that established Aug. 31 as the withdrawal deadline.

Luik, Danish Counterpart Discuss Cooperation

WS1404082694 Tallinn ETA in English 1808 GMT 13 Apr 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik met his Danish counterpart Niels Helveg Petersen on Wednesday [13 April], discussing problems of mutual interest, Estonia's relations with the European Union and Russia, Estonian Foreign Ministry press service informed ETA.

In connection with the free trade agreement negotiations between Estonia and the European Union, Petersen informed Luik of Danish support to Estonia in order the agreement could be as liberal as possible.

Petersen confirmed Denmark's support to the demand of Estonia and international society for Russia to withdraw its troops from Estonia by August 31, 1994.

The two ministers discussed also results of the activities of the Baltic Sea States Council and its perspectives, agreeing upon the fact that the council has developed into a countable organisation of regional cooperation and its activities have to be supported.

Defense Official Urges Detailed Military Doctrine

WS1404105794 Tallinn ETA in English 0717 GMT 14 Apr 94

[From April 14, HOMMIKULEHT, PAEVALEHT, p 3; "News Bulletin" No. 71]

[Text] Head of the Defence Ministry section of defence policy Enn Tupp announced that Estonia needs a political document determining Estonia's military doctrine and the use of funds allocated for defence needs.

The document on the basics of national defence, formulated more than a year ago, is superficial and somewhat naive, Tupp said. He added that the first stage of introducing total defence was completed with the passing of the law on conscription. A draft law on peacetime defence is currently debated by the Riigikogu [parliament] and the draft law on wartime defence is to reach the parliament in a month.

Tupp discussed further Estonia's defence capability, stressing that a direct aggression is unlikely in the near future, but that the Defence Forces must be capable of countering any minor conflicts. He stressed the importance of training the reserves and also predicted that Russia will complete the troops withdrawal by August 31, despite the invalidation of the corresponding item in the draft agreement. "The Russian military here are a political plaything, rather like the Skrunda radar station in Latvia," he said. Head of the ministry information section Jyri Kork added that approximately 30-40 Russian military are leaving Estonia every week.

Kork also discussed the strength of the Defence Forces, announcing that approximately 450 men out of full complement of 800 are present in each infantry battalion. However, only one third to a half of the officers' posts are currently occupied.

Latvia

Ulmanis Rules Out Meeting With Russia At Present

LD1304145194 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1200 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] President Guntis Ulmanis has sent a letter to Saeima Speaker Anatolijs Gorbunovs, in which he revokes his request to convene an extraordinary plenary session [of the parliament] on 15 April. According to a letter circulated by the presidential office, it is being done because Russian President Boris Yeltsin's order on military bases has not been repealed at a level requested by Latvia.

Ulmanis points out in the letter that because of this, his meeting with the Russian president is impossible in the nearest future. At the moment the signing of the initialled agreements in their present form is not possible either. The Latvian president considers that discussions with the governing coalition are evidence that there is no unanimity among the deputies on the issue of the initialled agreements.

I consider that the above-mentioned circumstances are substantial for the Saeima presidium to satisfy my request, the end of the letter reads. In connection with the fact that the state president has revoked, and the prime minister cancelled the request to convene the Saeima extraordinary session on 15 April this year, the Saeima presidium has stated that there is no longer a legal basis for the convention of such an extraordinary session.

Visit Postponed Indefinitely

LD1304202294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1752 GMT 13 Apr 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; Edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] A spokesman for President Guntis Ulmanis administration told INTERFAX Wednesday that his visit to Moscow scheduled for April 20 was postponed for an indefinite period. The spokesman did not suggest any reason for the postponement.

However, Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs made it clear addressing a briefing in Riga Tuesday, the reason is the dissatisfaction of the Latvian side by the explanations suggested by Russian officials for the Russian president's decision on the creation of military bases.

(INTERFAX Note: The decision of April 5 spread by the media said about Russia's intention to create military bases in the CIS countries and Latvia. Later the document was disavowed by representatives of the foreign and defense ministries and the Russian presidential structures as a consequences of a "technical mistake" or even "provocation")

The Latvian leadership insists that Boris Yeltsin personally disavow the decision which, by Riga's estimates, comes into force on April 13. Birkavs said that so far the Latvian government announces a "moratorium" for the negotiations with Russia on the conditions of the Russian troops pull-out and preparations for the signing of relevant treaties. The prime minister also said there is no need in the current situation to hold on April 15 a special session of the Latvian parliament which is to debate the package of Latvian-Russian agreements.

He also said that unless the Russian president withdraw the above document, Latvia will continue negotiations in no way. If so, Birkavs said, "Latvia will channel its entire activities towards the West" to obtain Latvia's stance on the swift and complete withdrawal of the Russian troops and the repatriation of the retired officers.

Birkavs said that the first step in this direction had been made by President Ulmanis who left Sunday for a tour of Denmark, France and Britain.

Birkavs said that Latvia should make the maximal use of the situation that shaped up after Yeltsin's decision was made public, and through further talks to achieve that Russia meet some additional demands, for example, on repatriation of the retired officers.

Prime Minister Birkavs will meet April 15 his Estonian counterpart Mart Laar to, what he described as "work out a common position at the talks with Russia on the troops pull-out."

Session on Russo-Latvian Documents Cancelled

LD1304172194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1648 GMT 13 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Kuchina]

[Text] Riga April 13 TASS— An emergency session of the Latvian parliament scheduled on Friday, was canceled today. The session was to be held on the initiative of the Latvian president and prime minister who insisted that draft agreements on the withdrawal of troops reached with Russia be discussed before the documents are signed. However, both Latvian top officials gave up their proposal in connection with Boris Yeltsin's order on the creation of a military base in Latvia.

A request to cancel an emergency session of the Latvian parliament was sent by Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis from Paris, where he is currently staying on a visit. Ulmanis' letter says that in view of the fact that Yeltsin's order has not been withdrawn in a form demanded by Latvia, the signing of earlier initialed agreements in their present form is impossible.

Ulmanis believes that a meeting with Boris Yeltsin in the near future is impossible either. This was announced to the general secretary of the European Council by Latvian Foreign Minister Georgs Andrejevs. In his letter the Latvian foreign minister pointed out that the Russian president's order was regarded in Latvia as a threat to its sovereignty.

Ulmanis, UK's Major Discuss Agreements

LD1304153894 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Latvian State President Guntis Ulmanis is continuing his visit to Western Europe. Today, the delegation headed by the president met in London with British Prime Minister John Major, Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, and Douglas Hogg, the minister of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs to explain Latvia's stance and find out the British opinion on the issue of

initialled Latvian-Russian agreements and Yeltsin's order of 5 April on the creation of military bases in CIS member states and Latvia.

Ulmanis also met David Manning, the director of the eastern department at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Roger Bone, an adviser to the foreign secretary on political affairs, and British Ambassador to Latvia Richard Ralph. The delegation will return to Riga at midnight.

Birkavs Wants Italian Support in Russian Issues

LD1304173594 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1500 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Meeting (?Umberto Pestalozzi), Italian ambassador to Latvia, Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs today said that on 12 April Latvia asked the Vienna Forum of the CSCE in Europe to consider the new situation in Latvian-Russian relations, which has come about in connection with Russian President Boris Yeltsin's order of 5 April. Birkavs stressed that the Latvian side will be prepared to resume further talks on the signing of the treaty on the Russian Army withdrawal and agreements related to it only when an official confirmation of the cancellation of the order is received from the Russian president.

Latvia will also insist for the agreement on social guarantees for discharged Russian military personnel to be supplemented with a (?clause) on the conditions for a voluntary repatriation of such people. It is planned to set up a special fund to finance the repatriation. Latvia, Russia, and third countries will be able to participate in this fund. Latvia will control the fund's money.

Birkavs has called on (?Pestalozzi), as a representative of a country which is holding the CSCE Presidency, with an appeal to support the repatriation of discharged military personnel, help rehabilitate the Skrunda area, and to send CSCE representatives to observe the work of the Skrunda facility.

Commission Adopts Plan To Fight Organized Crime

WS1304154694 Riga DIENA in Latvian 7 Apr 94 p 1

[Article by Nellija Locmele: "Fighting Organized Crime Becomes a Priority"]

[Text] Riga, 6 Apr—The parliamentary Commission for Defense and Interior Affairs has accepted a plan to counter organized crime, which will be deemed a priority in the overall fight against crime. The problem of ensuring a "green light" for this drive is to be resolved by the National Security Council and the Cabinet of Ministers, DIENA was told by Odisejs Kostanda, a member of Defense Commission. He also said that the commission will see to it that this prioritization is accepted at the highest level of state policy.

To implement this policy, it will be necessary to introduce several changes to legislative acts, and create a material and technical basis for the fight against organized crime. The Cabinet of Ministers will have to adopt proposals to reorganize the police. Eventually, it is envisioned that a special department for fighting crime and narcotics, a prosecutor's office, and a separate court structure will be introduced.

At present, Latvian law does not contain a definition of "organized crime," therefore neither the Prosecutor's Office nor the Ministry of Interior Affairs can supply precise data on results of the fight against this phenomenon. It is also difficult to estimate the true scale of organized crime, because only one quarter of all reported crimes are solved—last year, that figure was 27.9 percent.

Foreign Debt, Expected Credit Detailed

WS1404083194 Tallinn BNS in English 1844 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] RIGA, Apr 13, BNS - Latvia's foreign debt equalled 242.98 million U.S. dollars by April 1, Finance Ministry's Foreign Economic Relations Department Director Guntis Urlovskis said at a briefing Wednesday [13 April]. The total sum of the received foreign credits (the paid back credits are not counted) also is included in Latvia's foreign debt.

Urlovskis said that, at the moment, Latvia has signed credit agreements for 493 million U.S. dollars in total. Latvia also has drafted credit agreements with the European Union for 40 million ECU, with Norway for 6.3 million USD, with Switzerland for 8.6 million U.S. dollars, and with Austria for 32 million Austrian schillings. Latvia plans to receive credits from Denmark for 6.3 million U.S. dollars and from Iceland for 2.1 million U.S. dollars.

Urlovskis said that the credits are issued in Latvia according to Latvian Cabinet's regulations on usage of foreign credits given to Latvian Government, adopted February 1994. A special governmental committee controls the issuing of foreign credits.

Urlovskis said that the Finance Ministry has drafted regulations on the choosing of auditor firms which could control the usage of foreign credits, given to Latvian enterprises.

Ongoing Work on Oil Contract With Amoco Viewed

WS1304134994 Riga DIENA in Latvian 6 Apr 94 p 1

[Article by Nellija Locmele: "Government Has To Decide How To Make a Profit on Latvian Oil"]

[Text] Riga, 5 Apr—Today, the Saeima [parliament] Commission for Economy, Agriculture and Regional

Policy met with officials of the Amoco Overseas Exploration Company, along with representatives of the Ministries of Economy, Foreign Affairs, and Environment Protection, and a group of geologists. The aim of the meeting was to promote the concluding of a contract between the Latvian Government and Amoco, granting the latter drilling rights on Baltic sea territory belonging to Latvia, where, according to geologists, oil can be found.

Provided the contract is signed, Latvia will be entitled to a part of Amoco's profits from selling the extracted oil. In addition, the company will train Latvian geologists over a period of five years. As DIENA was told by Aristids Lambergs, member of the Economy Commission, there will be no expense for Latvia; it is only a question of agreeing upon profits. If an agreement is not signed, the company will drill on Swedish territory, which would mean no profits for Latvia at all. According to geologists, the oil deposit is like an underground barrel straddling the Latvian and Swedish border, and it can be reached by drilling on either side of the border. Amoco has already signed a contract with Sweden.

The signing of a contract with Latvia is being impeded by the fact that until now the sea border between Latvia and Lithuania has not been delineated. There are oil deposits situated where the two borders meet, and Lithuania may be able to make claims as well, depending on what the two governments decide. Actually, Latvia has found the demands of Lithuania unacceptable, but a compromise can be expected in a short time, nonetheless.

Due to the preliminary agreement signed by the Latvian Government and Amoco in 1993, the term for granting the license is 2 July of this year. The Latvian Government established a commission today which is to resolve problems connected with the above mentioned contract. According to the company's proposal, the license must be confirmed by parliament. A. Lambergs emphasized that the Commission for Economy regards this project as useful and important for Latvia. Amoco is a U.S. company which extracts oil around the globe, and is the sixth largest company of its kind in the world.

Unemployment Estimated at 6.6 Percent

WS1404082394 Tallinn BNS in English 1716 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] RIGA, Apr 13, BNS - As many as 101,648 people, or 5.9 percent of the country's able-bodied population, were without job on April 12, according to figures from the State Employment Service. The State Statistics Committee calculates the joblessness at 6.6 percent of economically active residents.

From all persons looking for jobs, 87,953 have registered themselves as unemployed, 36,751 receive allowances and 31,627 have been seeking job for long time, the Employment Service said. In Riga, the unemployment runs at 3.5 percent while in some rural districts it hits 12 percent and more.

The Cabinet considered the effect of unemployment on the interior stability and looked through proposals to improve the situation during its Tuesday [12 April] session. Labor Minister Andris Berzins briefed reporters that the government planned to support the development of small and medium size business in rural districts, where the unemployment is most severely felt, by channeling foreign investments and credits to the countryside.

Lithuania

No Tangible Results at Kaliningrad Talks

LD1304221394 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Lithuanian representatives have described the negotiations with the Kaliningrad region delegation as not having yielded tangible results. A routine meeting of Lithuanian and Russian representatives to establish the state border ended on Tuesday in the Kaliningrad region. The Lithuanian delegation was led by Deputy Foreign Minister Vladislovas Domarkas. The coordination of the land border line between Lithuania and the Kaliningrad region took place during the meeting [as heard]. The delegations were also disputing the territorial sea border between the two states, the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs reports.

U.S. Military Official Satisfied With Cooperation

WS1304150794 Tallinn BNS in English 1226 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Vilnius, Apr 13, BNS—American military experts see a number of positive changes in Lithuania's national defense system and think the improvement is partly a result of the successful implementation of the U.S. Military-to-Military Contacts Program in Lithuania.

Such contacts cost the United States around 100,000 dollars a month, but Brig. Gen. Thomas Lennon, deputy director of the program in 13 world countries, said he is certain that money is not spent uselessly in Lithuania. The general arrived in Vilnius Monday [11 April].

On Tuesday, Lennon met with the U.S. ambassador to Lithuania, Darryl Johnson, and Lithuanian Defense Minister Linas Linkevicius. At a press conference, Lennon said he is satisfied with the work of a joint U.S.-Lithuanian military contacts group. He emphasized that the Military-to-Military program is a mutual exchange of ideas and experience, but not an attempt to press on American views.

Lennon said 85 projects ranging a full spectrum of national defense activities were carried out in Lithuania since last May.

Lithuanians and Americans acquainted each other with their defense structures, civil defense, military communication systems, military medicine and engineering. The Military-to-Military program will be continued in Lithuania next year, although initially it was intended for half year or a year. Lennon said the program will continue in Lithuania because "the interest of the United States is supporting your democratic transformations."

Linkevicious Laments 'Difficult' Working Conditions

WS1404083394 Tallinn BNS in English 1844 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] VILNIUS, Apr 13, BNS - Lithuanian Defense Minister Linas Linkevicius says he does not intend to resign yet, although conditions for work are "difficult." In an interview with the leftist TIESA newspaper, Linkevicius, who is a member of the ruling Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party [LDDP], said some of LDDP members have prejudices against national defense.

"I see ill-favored criticism in this, although I earlier thought that I am criticized well-wishing," the minister said.

Linkevicius recently announced his decision to leave the parliament's National Security Committee, which is dominated by LDDP members.

Movement Notes Downfall of Defense

WS1404081794 Vilnius RESPUBLIKA in Lithuanian 7 Apr 94 No. 67 p 21

[Statement by the Council of the Movement for National Progress "On the Situation in the National Defense System"]

[Text] It has been already more than half a year that the national defense system of the Republic of Lithuania has been destroyed methodically. This process was begun and is being vigorously continued by the Seimas [parliament] National Security Committee. Some responsibility for these actions and their effects also falls on the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party [LDDP] and its faction in the Seimas, because their members, constituting the core of the National Security Committee, determine its destructive activities. One must state that the blatant press campaign discrediting the national defense system was begun by this committee which is continuing to incite it. Newspapers carry misleading statistics about the situation in various areas of the national defense system, the rate of accidents and deaths in the Army, without comparing them with analogous figures in the interior system. We do not intend to belittle the accomplishments of the National Security Committee in disclosing the current disorder in the defense system—instances of occasional abuse of one's powers, nonstatutory relations, poor nutrition, substandard living and sanitary conditions, mismanagement, financial violations, and chaos on the border. We believe, however, that the prevalent style in this committee is that of supervision and criticism, while its members imagine that they know everything about the national defense system. One must state that their criticism is not benevolent, and there are no constructive proposals on how to improve the current situation. Members of the National Security Committee have forgotten that their primary duty is to immediately impose order in the legal basis of the national defense system. Thus far, the Seimas has adopted neither a national security concept nor laws regulating young men's conscription to the active national defense service or a military statute, while the National Security Committee has shown no hurry to speed up their adoption. The fact that the National Defense Ministry budget was reduced on the initiative of this committee was particularly negative. It is extremely dangerous that the cut in finances for the national defense system and its ruthless criticism cause tension and dissatisfaction in the Army. Those who want to sustain tensions in the Army by trying to use it for the implementation of their political interests, take perfect advantage of these moods. It is not accidental that they are interested in the illegal activities of separate officers of the Volunteer National Defense Service [SKAT] and justify them by all means. We believe that direct responsibility for the delay in effective SKAT reform in preventing any chances for abuse rests with the National Security Committee. It is highly surprising that the committee hinders the national defense minister in every possible way, who seeks to preserve our Army's authority, concord, and peace, as well as the prestige of Lithuania's national defense system among Western states.

The Council of the Movement for National Progress categorically speaks out against the destruction of the national defense prestige, of the moral authority in the Army and the volunteer service, and the factual removal of Lithuania's defense system. We claim that all of this is currently being done by the Seimas National Security Committee. We appeal to the LDDP leadership and urge it to prevent this situation with practical deeds rather than declarations. We also appeal to the LDDP faction in the Seimas that it review the activities of its members who belong to the National Security Committee. We appeal to the leadership of the Lithuanian Seimas and its deputies requesting them to reform the National Security Committee and replace its leaders. We also appeal to A. Brazauskas, president of the Republic of Lithuania, so that he devote more attention to the national defense system, particularly to officers, begin supervising the Lithuanian Army, and prevent its thoughtless and dangerous destruction by his authority. The destruction of the national defense system that has not been fully formed can seriously harm the restoration of Lithuania's independence and its joining the ranks of democratic states.

Seimas Adopts Income Tax Legislation Amendments

WS1404081894 Tallinn BNS in English 1716 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] VILNIUS, Apr 13, BNS - The Lithuanian parliament on Tuesday [12 April] passed several amendments to the temporary law on the individual income tax, which was reduced to 33 percent.

The amendments were adopted as a counterbalance to the value-added tax that comes into effect May 1. Experts suppose that the individual income tax will drop by an average of 7 to 8 lits, while annual budget receipts should decrease by around 100,000 lits. Smaller income taxes should compensate for the price-leap that is expected after the value-added tax is introduced. Prices are expected to jump by around 6 to 10 percent.

The amended law provides not only for the reduction of the individual income tax, but also for a higher nontaxable income minimum. The amendments are temporary because a law on the general income tax has already been submitted to the parliament for consideration. The new tax will presumably come into effect next year.

On Tuesday, the parliament also fully approved the law on excises. The lawmakers changed their earlier decision not to impose excises on coffee and electricity.

Ex-Minister: Policy With Russia 'Presents Danger'

WS1404082894 Vilnius ELTA in English 1711 GMT 13 Apr 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 477]

[Text] VILNIUS, April 13, ELTA—"The new Lithuanian foreign policy in solving problems between Lithuania and Russia presents danger for Lithuania," the former Defence Minister Audrius Butkevicius said.

Butkevicius said that "Lithuania has never had any obligations to Russia as far as the withdrawal of Russian army is concerned."

Meanwhile, Lithuanian Government and General Prosecutor's Office publicized a joint statement which said that "Lithuania has carried out all the obligations to Russia by building houses for Russian officers in Kaliningrad enclave." According to Butkevicius, the houses in Kaliningrad enclave were built by the firm which had been chosen by Russian Defence Ministry and Baltic Military Navy. Butkevicius noted that it made possible to avoid the obligations to Russia.

Social Democrats Initiate No-Confidence Move

WS1204203194 Vilnius ELTA in English 1854 GMT 12 Apr 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 476]

[Text] Vilnius, April 12, ELTA—Chairman of social democratic party Aloyzas Sakalas and Deputy Chairman Vytenis Andriukaitis told a news conference on Tuesday [12 April] about the non-confidence to government which had been initiated by social democrats.

As it is already known, last week the social democrat faction started gathering signatures of the members of Seimas [parliament] in order to make a statement. Social democrats need signatures of 29 parliamentarians to begin the consideration of the non-confidence vote for Slezevicius government.

It was mentioned at the news conference that social democrtas had 20 signatures. Their activities were approved by National Union, democrats, centrists and some independent members of Seimas. Social democrats did not receive the support from conservatives, political prisoners and deportees and christian democrats.

Social democrats said at the news conference that non-confidence vote is to be given for the whole governemnt for the first time in Lithuania. They publicized a document of 40 pages with the analysis of the government activities, which they called the substantiation of the non-confidence.

According social democrats, the governemnt should be changed because it had not carried out its obligations and duties. The government was also accused of poor state property and other reforms.

Two Candidates Apply To Fill Vacant Seat

WS1304151694 Tallinn BNS in English 1806 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Vilnius, Apr 12, BNS - Only two potential candidates submitted their applications to the Chief Election Commission [CEC] for participation in a by-election to the Lithuanian parliament.

Liudvikas Sabutis, member of the previous parliament, nominated by the Conservative Party, and Albinas Visockas, leader of the recently founded extreme-leftist Socialist Party, intend to compete for a vacant seat left by President Algirdas Brazauskas.

Although the Socialist Party is not yet officially registered, this is unlikely to prevent Visockas from being registered as a candidate because he collected the necessary 1,000 signatures in his support. The CEC is scheduled to discuss registration of candidates Thursday.

The by-election in the Kaisiadorys district, where Brazauskas was elected to the parliament, is scheduled for May 15. This will be the third attempt to elect an MP in this district.

During earlier by-elections in the same district last summer and fall, none of the candidates received the necessary amount of votes. Sabutis held the lead in fall, but nevertheless failed to enter the parliament.

Pre-Registration Probe of Socialist Party Sought

WS1404093494 Vilnius ELTA in Lithuanian 1118 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] The opposition in the Lithuanian Seimas [parliament] has circulated a statement on the registration of the newly founded Socialist Party. According to its founders, the new organization is a "party dedicated to working people" seeking to restore communist ideas.

In the opposition's opinion, before the new party is registered, it is necessary to establish the relations of its members with the subunit of the USSR Communist Party, which functioned illegally in Lithuania.

Representatives of the Lithuanian Ministry of Justice have reported that the rules for registering political organizations do not envision such a procedure. They have also said that thus far they have not received any official application from the Socialist Party requesting legalization.

President Notes 'Grave Concern' Over Smuggling

WS1404082294 Tallinn BNS in English 1716 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Text] Vilnius, Apr 13, BNS—Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas expressed grave concern about the extent of smuggling through Lithuanian territory.

At a meeting of the coordinative group for struggle against organized crime and corruption Tuesday [12 April], Brazauskas said criminals are able to freely cross the country's borders and to smuggle goods.

The president said the introduction of stickers for sealing legally imported liquor and tobacco products was "a farce" because the stickers can be easily forged. "Enough defaming Lithuania," Brazauskas said.

The meeting, devoted to smuggling problems, was attended by the leadership of the parliament, the Supreme Court, ministries of Defense and Justice, National Security Service, the Customs Department, the Border Defense Service, as well as officials from Ministries of Foreign Affairs and the Interior.

The meeting's participants said liquor and tobacco are currently the principal contraband goods, but metals, drugs, weapons, radioactive substances and even helicopters and planes are smuggled, as well.

Officials attributed the unsuccessful struggle against smugglers to imperfection of the legislation regulating activities of customs and border services. The meeting's participants also pointed to the lack of employees and the absence of a unified information network.

Jurgis Jurgelis, director of the National Security Service, emphasized that corruption "has reached such an extent in our society that we are starting to be known as barbarians."

President Brazauskas promised to work out recommendatory "formulas" for the institutions concerned and to hear reports about the work done at the next meeting.

Ministry Addresses 'Complicated' Crime Situation

WS1304154494 Vilnius TIESA in Lithuanian 8 Apr 94 No. 68 p 2

[Report by Ceslovas Skarzinskas: "Some Crimes Have Declined, While Others Have Increased"]

[Excerpts] Yesterday's plenary meeting of the Interior Ministry Collegium was attended by President A. Brazauskas, Prime Minister A. Slezevicius, Seimas [parliament] Deputy Chairman E. Bickauskas, Prosecutor General A. Paulauskas, Justice Minister J. Prapiestis, Supreme Court Chairman M. Losys, V. Petkevicius, chairman of the Seimas National Security Committee, many state officials, and leaders of police stations in towns and regions.

The criminal situation in Lithuania is complicated. The police have registered 12,848 crimes over the first three months of this year alone. Interior Minister R. Vaitekunas expressed his delight with the fact that the crime rate in the first quarter of this year has dropped by 18.8 percent in comparison with the same period last year. The situation is stabilizing. However, the number of grave crimes increased in the beginning of this year and reached a total of 2,239. The only consolation is that a large number of these crimes—44.5 percent—have been solved. Criminals have used firearms 105 times this year. It is difficult to predict what will happen in Lithuania now that the official permit to buy firearms for self-defense came into effect on 1 April.

Incidentally, the rate of thefts of personal, state, and stockholders' property has declined.

Minister Vaitekunas' assessment of the law on preventive detention was very positive. It may be this law that helped disclose a larger number of grave crimes. For example, 75 people have been detained under this law this year. However, there is no place to hold detained people. Currently, there are 1,400 suspects in confinement cells. Jails are overcrowded with prisoners. The meeting addressed the expansion of new confinement facilities. [passage omitted]

The last speaker to address the meeting was President A. Brazauskas, who assessed the work of the Interior Ministry favorably. After the restoration of independence, there were attempts to politicize the ministry. The president said that free market relations triggered corruption and led to a number of other problems in the country.

The president placed emphasis on economic crimes. "We," said A. Brazauskas, "collect only about 60 percent of taxes from organizations. Private firms employ 55 percent of the population. Do they settle their accounts with the state? It is necessary to apply police measures here."

Among other economic crimes, the president mentioned the "Sekunde" bank, which deceived 14,000 depositors. He also criticized self-governments that engage in politics instead of dealing with municipal problems. They should be a serious help for the police. Participants in the meeting also discussed contraband, border defense, and bribery.

Successful attempts to suppress the surge of crime will depend on joint and resolute actions of all judicial institutions. This idea was voiced by all the speakers.

State Budget in Difficulties

LD1304174494 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Russian 1200 GMT 13 Apr 94

[Excerpt] The Lithuanian budget is in a very difficult state, according to Vice Minister of Finance Reinoldijus Sarkinas. This has happened because the wages for the officials at some organizations, maintained from the budget, have not been included in good time. Lithuanian TV forecasts that the payment of wages will be late in May, too.

According to Sarkinas, the situation in the fulfillment of the budget became especially bad during the first three months of this year. For example, in December 1993 the national budget received revenue in sum of 385 million litas, whereas in February and March only 285 million litas were received in each month. [passage omitted]